

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TOWN OFFICERS
OF THE
TOWN OF HOPEDALE**



ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH EDITION

**JULY 1, 1999 to JUNE 30, 2000
FISCAL YEAR 2000**

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GENERAL INTEREST INFORMATION

Town of Hopedale – Incorporated April 7, 1886

POPULATION:	5,927
REGISTERED VOTERS:	3,500
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:	Second Tuesday in April
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION:	Second Tuesday in May

Editor's Note: We wish to thank the Town officials who submitted reports for this publication on time.

TOWN OF HOPEDALE TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

GENERAL OFFICE:

Town Hall	634-2203
78 Hopedale Street	634-2204
P.O. Box 7	634-2205
Board of Selectmen	
Town Coordinator	
Town Clerk	
Town Accountant	
Town Treasurer/Tax Collector	
Board of Assessors	
Board of Health	
Building Inspector/Zoning Officer	
Highway Department	
Water/Sewer Department	

Council on Aging	634-2208
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Bancroft Library	634-2209
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Police Department	634-2227
Police Emergency	911

Fire Department	473-1050
Fire/Medical Emergency	911

Waste Water Treatment Plant	634-2210
154 Mendon Street	

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Memorial School – 54 Adin Street	634-2214
Junior/Senior High School – 25 Adin Street	
Superintendent's Office	634-2220
Principal's Office	634-2217
Guidance Office	634-2221
Pupil Personnel Services	634-2240

At the time of printing, the Town is in the process of updating our telephone system. Soon all calls to Town Hall offices will be answered by an auto-attendant and you will be directed to choose a department or individual by their voice-mail station number. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this conversion.

FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICIALS

U.S. SENATOR

Senator Edward M. Kennedy
315 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
District Office: 2400 JFK Building
Boston, MA 02203
(617)565-3170

U.S. SENATOR

Senator John F. Kerry
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
District Office: One Bowdoin Square, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02114
(617)565-8519

U.S. CONGRESSMAN

Richard E. Neal
2236 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202)225-5601
District Office: 4 Congress Street
Post Office Building
Milford, MA 01757
(508)634-8198

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Argeo Paul Cellucci
State House, Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

SENATOR IN MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE

Guy W. Glodis
State House, Room 213B
Boston, MA 02133
(617)722-1455

REPRESENTATIVE IN MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE

Marie J. Parente
State House, Room 167
Boston, MA 02133
(617)722-2000

**TOWN OF HOPEDALE
ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS**

Term Expires

FY2000

**Blackstone Valley Vocational
High School Committee**

Everett Young

2001

Board of Selectmen

Ed Burt©

2001

Mike Milanoski

2002

Michael Collins

2003

Housing Authority

Louis Trevani©

2001

Edward Malloy

2003

Ellen Murphy

2003

Karen Villani

2005

Park Commission

Rick Espanet©

2001

Mark Sesona

2000

Harry Ohannesian

2002

Road Commissioners

John Farrar, Jr.©

2002

Donald R. Fafard

2001

William Marquis

2003

School Committee

Liz Lerner©

2003

Mary Cockroft

2003

Edward Burke

2001

Richard Martin

2001

Earle M. Test

2002

Planning Board

D. Craig Travers ©

2002

Harland Griffin

2005

Phillip LeMarbre

2001

Joseph Luchini

2003

Michael Weaver

2003

Town Clerk

Ronda Ohannesian

2001

Town Moderator

Francis J. Larkin

2003

Tree Warden

David Sawyer

2003

Trustees of the Library

Frederick Oldfield, III©

2001

	Roger Edwards	2002
	Edward L. Spillers	2003
Water & Sewer Commission	Christine Burke©	2002
	Robert Bird	2001
	Aldo Tarca	2003
Board of Health	Joanne Monique©	2003
	Peter Mitchell	2002
	Elizabeth Sales	2001

HOPEDALE TOWN OFFICIALS AND APPOINTED POSITIONS

Term Expires

Americans with Disabilities (ADA Coordinator)	Allan Klepper	
Animal Inspector	Leon Mael	
Associate Assessor	Russ Murray	
Bancroft Mem. Library Director	Elaine Malloy	2001
Board of Assessors	Richard Volpe©	2002
	Lisa Alberto	2003
	Robert Carbone	2001
Board of Registrars	Dorothy Milanoski©	2003
	Joyne Moynihan	2001
	Bernie Stock	2002
	Ronda Ohannesian	2001
Building Commissioner	Michael Tusino	2001
Building Inspector	Michael Chaisson	2001
By-Law Review Committee	Ken Andre	2001
	Christine Burke	2001
	Aldo Cipriano	2001
	Robert (Zeke) Hammond	2001
	Richard Mank	2001
	Ronda Ohannesian	2001
	Bernard Stock	2001
Capital Program Committee	James Carroll	2001
	Kenneth Mossman(f)	
	Thad Reed (f)	
	Howard Maurer	2002
	Maureen Haynes	2003
Cemetery Committee	Roberta F. Simmons	2001
	Donald Ellmore	2001

	Howard Thayer	2001
Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission	Allan Klepper	
Chief Procurement Officer	Allan Klepper	
CMRPC Rep.	Allan Klepper	
Comm. On Disabilities	Peter Ellis, Jr.	2002
	Margaret Flynn	2002
Conservation Commission	Jennifer Weaver-Heim©	2001
	Brian Koch	2001
	Curtis Clark	2001
	Timothy Alger	2001
	James Schliefske	2001
Constables	Victor Best	2001
	James Gardner	2001
	Richard Mank	2001
	Francis J. McVeigh, Jr.	2001
	Steven Sweet	2001
Council on Aging	Mary 'Challela©	2001
	Joan Bradbury	2002
	Elizabeth Bartolet	2001
	Barbara Delphos	2002
	Robert Hammond	2001
	Claudette Hughes	2003
	Annemarie Kontoff	2002
Council on Aging, Dir.	Carole Mullen	-----
Cultural Council	Wilma Manning©	2003
	Janet Ellis	2001
	Ann Labrode	2001
	Virginia Larkin	2001
	Elizabeth Lerner	2003
	AnnMarie Lockwood	2002
	Susan Pagnini	2002
	Dorothy Suzanska	2003
	Blank	
Dog Officer	John Gagnon	
Finance Committee	Don Comastra©	2002

	Karla Hopkins	2001
	Kenneth Mossman	2001
	Eugene Phillips	2001
	Thad C. L.Reed	2002
Fire Chief	Scott Garland	2001
Friends of the Elders Shop	Helen Crossman	
Gas Inspector	John Balance	2001
Health Agent	Lenny Izzo	
Highway Department	Robert DePonte	
Historical Commission	Merrily Sparling©	2001
	Judith Phillips	
	James Kinney	2001
	Elaine Malloy	2001
	Frederick Oldfield, III.	2001
	Tara Taglianetti-Chambers	2001
Historical Documents	Robert (Zeke)Hammond	
	Frederick Oldfield III	
	Merrily Sparling	
Housing Authority Director	Katherine Consigli	
Housing Authority State Appointee	Edith Francis	2005
Local Emergency Management Director	Scott Garland	
Parking Fines Clerk	Donna Lamphere	
Personnel Committee	Diana Hayes©	2001
	Harry Murphy	2001
	Chris Madden	2002
	Margaret McElroy	2002
Plumbing Inspector	John Balanca	2001
Police Chief	Eugene Costanza	2001
Police Matron	Lisa Collins	2001

	Denise Delannoy	2001
	Cherie Mason	2001
Police Officers	Victor Best	2001
	Chad Chysna	2001
	James Gardner	2001
	Mark Giovanella	2001
	Richard Mank	2001
	Donald Martin	2001
	Wayne Minichielli	2001
	Andrew Saball	2001
	Steven Sweet	2001
	Shawn Valliere	2001
Police Officer Reserve	Lisa Collins	2001
	Armand Cooper	2001
	James Curley	2001
	Joseph Drugan	2001
	Charles Hester	2001
	Gregory Reardon	2001
	Todd Rossi	2001
Red Shop Committee	Robert Brown	
	William Gannett	
	Merrily Sparling	
School Building Committee		
	David Pantano©	
	Edward Burke	
	Ed Burt	
	Linda Caulkins	
	Grace Dorsey	
	Justine Tonelli	
	Jessica LeMarbre	
	Elizabeth Lerner	
	Debra Madde	
	Richard Martin	
	Howard Maurer	
School Superintendent	Andrea Hallion	
Tax Collector/Treasurer	Christine Goodwin	
Town Coordinator	Allan Klepper	

Town Counsel	Kopelman & Paige	
Veteran's Agent	Anthony Mastroianni	
Wiring Inspector	Albert Shimkus	
Asst. Wir. Inspector	Joseph Scanzaroli	
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thomas Haynes©	2001
	Louis Arcudi,III	2002
	Steven Gallagher	2001
	William Northrop	2001
	Timothy Alger	2001
Zoning Enforcement Officer		
	Michael Tusino	2001

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WARRANT FOR THE TOWN ELECTION
TOWN OF HOPEDALE
May 9, 2000**

WORCESTER, SS.

To either of the constables in the Town of Hopedale, Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth aforesaid you are hereby required to notify the inhabitants of the Town of Hopedale, qualified to vote in elections, to meet at the George A. Draper Gymnasium on Dutcher Street, on Tuesday, May 9, 2000 at seven o'clock in the forenoon to vote for the following Town Officers and on the following question:

The Polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.


Town Officers:

One Selectman	for 3 years
One School Committee Member	for 3 years
One School Committee Member	for 3 years
One Road Commissioner	for 3 years
One Board of Health Member	for 3 years
One Planning Board Member	for 5 years
One Library Trustee	for 3 years
One Water & Sewer Commissioner	for 3 years
One Park Commissioner	for 3 years
One Park Commissioner	for 2 years (unexpired term)
One Housing Authority Member	for 5 years
One Moderator	for 3 years
One Tree Warden	for 2 years(unexpired term)


Ballot Question:

THIS QUESTION IS NON-BINDING: Does the Town favor enactment of special legislation Which would make the positions of regular or permanent members of the police force, Including intermittent reserve officers, and regular or permanent members of the fire Department of the town of Hopedale subject to the provisions of Chapter 31 of the General Laws, the civil service law, and which would further provide that, notwithstanding MASS. G.L.c.31, ch.56,Para. 1 or any general or special law to the contrary, public safety Personnel hired during the six-month period preceding enactment of such special Legislation shall be included as civil service employees under said Chapter 31, subject to Any applicable probationary period?


WITNESS OUR HANDS AND THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF HOPEDALE, THIS 27th day OF MARCH 2000.


EDWARD BURT
SELECTMAN


MICHAEL MILANOSKI
SELECTMAN


ALFRED SPARLING
SELECTMAN

TRUE COPY ATTEST:


Ronda O'Hannexia
Town Clerk

This notice shall be posted in three public places in the Town of Hopedale, one of which shall be the Town Hall, as required by the Town By-Laws, and you shall make your return thereof to the Town Clerk.

I certify that I posted attested copies of the above warrant in the Hopedale Town Hall, Community House and Hopedale Post Office as directed.

Date:

4-04-02

Constable:



HOPEDALE ANNUAL ELECTION

MAY 9, 2000

DRAPER GYM

DUTCHER STREET

ELECTION RESULTS

MODERATOR (3 YR)

Francis J. Larkin

Yes 361

Blank 103

Write-ins 3

SELECTMAN (3 YR)

Michael Collins

Yes 322

Blank 143

Write-ins

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Liz Lerner 326

Mary Cockcroft 268

Blanks 335

Write-ins 3

PARK COMMISSION (2 YR)

Harry Ohannesian

Yes 304

Blank 157

Write-ins 6

TREE WARDEN (2 YR)

Failure to Elect

WATER & SEWER (3 YR)

Aldo P. Tarca

Yes 328

Blank 139

Write-ins 1

ROAD COMMISSIONER

William P. Marquis

Yes 305

Blank 160

Write-ins 2

PARK COMMISSION (3 YR)

Blank 392

Write-in 32

Mark Sesona 44

BOARD OF HEALTH

Joanne Monique

Yes 320

Blank 146

Write-ins 1

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Charles Germagian 111

Karen Villani 313

Blanks 43

PLANNING BOARD

Harland E. Griffin

Yes 306

Blank 158

Write-ins 3

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

Edward L. Spillers

Yes 295

Blank 171

Write-ins 1

BALLOT QUESTION

Yes 250

No 187

Blanks 30

*Ronda Ohannesian
Town Clerk*

TOWN OF HOPEDALE – SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Tuesday, November 9th, 1999 at 7:00 o'clock in the evening
in the Memorial School Multi-purpose Room

Worcester SS: To either of the Constables in the Town of Hopedale in the County of Worcester.
Greetings: In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hopedale qualified to vote in town affairs to meet in the Memorial School Multi-purpose Room on Tuesday, November 9th, 1999, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds as detailed below to pay for prior year bills (pre 7/1/99), or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: Proposed transfers total \$4,418.35 for:

<i>Department</i>	<i>Project/Account</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Town Counsel</i>	<i>Kopelman and Paige, P.C.</i>	<i>\$3,980.85</i>
<i>Town Counsel</i>	<i>Lane and Hamer</i>	<i>\$437.50</i>

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Fin. Com. Rec: Approve.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to accept the recommendations of the Personnel Committee for new Classification and Pay Plans for municipal employees as prescribed under Chapter XXII-B: The Personnel Administration Bylaw of the Town, and transfer sums of monies from Free Cash: \$325 to Assessors; \$10,505 to Office of Selectmen; \$2,590 to Highway Dept.; \$4,810 to Library; \$1,025 to Police Dept.; \$3,015 to Fire Dept.; from the Water Reserve Account: \$3,090 to the Water Dept.; and from the Sewer Reserve Account: \$3,050 to the Sewer Dept., for implementation of the Committee's recommendations, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: Implementation of specific increases will be subject to department oversight board approval. Some changes contained above are to be effective 7/1/99 due to contract agreements reached prior to Plan completion. Most changes to become effective on 1/1/00. Fire Union negotiations are currently underway. Public Safety Dispatchers are unionizing. One Police salary is in litigation. Police Union is in third year of contract – negotiations to start soon. When settlements are reached, their fiscal impacts will be presented for approval at a future Town Meeting.

Submitted by: Personnel Committee and Selectmen

Fin. Com. Rec: Approve.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of monies from Free Cash to various departments/accounts for capital projects, upon the recommendations of the Capital Program Committee, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: Proposed transfers total \$471,000 for:

<i>Department</i>	<i>Project/Account</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Police Dept.</i>	<i>Police Cruiser</i>	<i>\$28,000</i>
<i>Fire Dept.</i>	<i>Floor reconstruction and asbestos removal</i>	<i>\$258,000</i>
<i>Fire Dept.</i>	<i>Roof replacement</i>	<i>\$35,000</i>
<i>Fire Dept.</i>	<i>Concrete apron replacement</i>	<i>\$13,000</i>
<i>Road Commission</i>	<i>Hopedale St. drainage study</i>	<i>\$4,000</i>
<i>School Dept.</i>	<i>Park Street window replacement</i>	<i>\$42,000</i>
<i>Board of Health</i>	<i>New recycling center concrete pad and fence</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>
<i>Road Comm, Forestry & Board of Health</i>	<i>Wood Chipper</i>	<i>\$29,000</i>
<i>Fire Dept.</i>	<i>Fire station design study</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>
<i>Bancroft Library</i>	<i>Statue of Hope and historic landscape/garden¹</i>	<i>\$32,000</i>

Notes:

1. A \$12,000 reimbursable grant will offset this expense. Net cost to Town is \$20,000. Town is therefore contributing \$20,000 toward total project cost of \$60,000.

Submitted by: Capital Program Committee

Fin. Com. Rec: Given at the meeting.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account under GLc.40, §5F, replacing the previously established Revolving Account under GLc.44, §53E½ (adopted at the Special Town Meeting of 6/29/98) for the purpose of funding succeeding year's Ambulance Department Operations from the fund instead of using receipts to fund operations in the year received, which will make the Ambulance Operation self-sufficient similar to the Water and Sewer Departments: it will be directly accountable to approved appropriations only and be able to accumulate unappropriated funds for future equipment acquisitions, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: Current Ambulance Operations are funded from tax receipts. With the advent of third party billing for services, sufficient receipts are anticipated in order to fund next year's operation.

Submitted by: Fire Chief and Accountant

Fin. Com. Rec: Approve.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town of Hopedale accept the applicability of the Civil Service law and rules to the regular or permanent members of the Police force, including intermittent reserve officers and the regular or permanent members of the Fire force subject to the provisions of chapter thirty-one of the General Laws and shall the tenure of any incumbents thereof be subject to the provisions of said chapter thirty-one?

If it is voted to accept question 1, the undersigned then ask the Town to take all appropriate action to petition the State Legislature to enact enabling legislation to make effective the placement of the police and fire forces under the provisions of Civil Service to chapter thirty-one, including the repeal of section 2 of chapter 262 of the Acts of 1984.

Submitted by: Petition of Victor Best et al.

Fin. Com. Rec: Disapprove.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$925 to the Board of Health for an wage increase for the Health Agent, effective 1/1/00, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Health

Fin. Com. Rec: Given at the meeting.

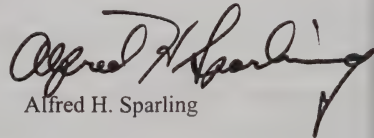
You are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof at the three public places in different parts of the Town not less than fourteen days before the holding of said meeting. Hereof fail not to make the due return of the meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 25th day of October 1999.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN


Edward Burt, Chairman

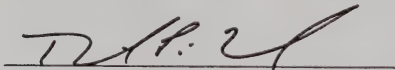

Michael Milanoski

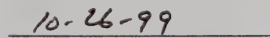

Alfred H. Sparling



A True Copy, ATTEST:

Posted in the Town Hall, Community House, and Post Office Lobby.


Constable


Date

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WORCESTER, SS.
TOWN OF HOPEDALE
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 9, 1999

The inhabitants of the Town of Hopedale, qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, met in the Multi-purpose room of the Memorial School at 7:00 p.m. At 7:10 p.m., Moderator Francis J. Larkin called the meeting to order and declared a quorum (50) present. The meeting was called under the authority of a Warrant dated October 25, 1999, with a Return of Service dated October 26, 1999.

The Moderator introduced 6-year old Olivia Chiacchia, who sang "My Country 'Tis of Thee".

The Moderator moved to have the following non-residents have privileges of the floor:

Eugene Costanza, Police Chief
Scott Garland, Fire Chief
Andrea Hallion, Superintendent
Sharon Emmerick, Town Accountant
Denise Murphy, Town Treasurer
Warren Rutherford, Personnel Study Coordinator
Theresa Dowdy, Town Counsel, K& P
Allan Klepper, Town Coordinator

Motion duly seconded, unanimously passed by voice vote.

Moderator read announcement regarding Seminar for Open Meeting Law to be held November 18 at Milford Town Library.

Moderator introduced Ed Burt, Chairman of the Selectman, who reviewed the evening's articles for the Voters. Mr. Burt thanked the Library, Friends of the Library and the Trustees for their work on the Library.

The Moderator began reading the Warrant, and upon motion duly voted, dispenses with further reading of the Warrant and proceeded as follows:

ARTICLE 1: Selectman Ed Burt moved to transfer from the following listed accounts a total of \$5,482.35 to pay for prior year bills (pre 7/1/99):

<u>Department</u>	<u>Project/Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Legal Dept.	Kopelman and Paige, P.C.	\$3,980.85
Legal Dept.	Lane and Hamer	\$437.50
Town Clerk	Ridgewood Printing Company	\$435.00
The Red Shop Account	Massachusetts Electric	\$8.32
Zoning Board of Appeals	The Milford Daily News	\$620.68

After a brief explanation, the motion was duly seconded and unanimously voted. (9/10 vote was needed.)

ARTICLE 2: Ed Burt moved that the Town accept the Classification and Pay Plans for municipal employees as recommended by the Personnel Committee, and transfer sums of monies to fund the implementation of the Committee's recommendations as follows: from Free Cash: \$325 to Assessors; \$10,505 to Office of Selectmen; \$2,590 to Highway Dept.; \$7,670 to Library; \$470 to the Building Commission; \$1,025 to Police Dept.; \$3,015 to Fire Dept.; from the Water Reserve Account: \$3,090 to the Water Dept.; and from the Sewer Reserve Account: \$3,050 to the Sewer Dept.

Commentary: Implementation of specific increases will be subject to department oversight board approval. Some changes contained above are to be effective 7/1/99 due to contract agreements reached prior to Plan completion. Most changes to become effective on 1/1/00. Fire Union negotiations are currently underway. Public Safety Dispatchers are unionizing. One Police salary is in litigation. Police Union is in third year of contract – negotiations to start soon. When settlements are reached, their fiscal impacts will be presented for approval at a future Town Meeting.

Duly seconded.

Moderator Larkin took questions from the voters. Mr. Glatky asked for a review of the dollar amounts. Diana Hayes, Chair of the Personnel Committee took the podium and gave an explanation of how the Personnel study worked.

A question from the voters, "Why was so little allocated to Police?"

Al Sparling, Selectman, explained this survey only related to salaried employees, not union.

Question from the voters, "What was the breakdown of \$10,500 for Selectman?" Allan Klepper, Town Coordinator explained.

Allan continued to explain to more questions that the monies were to be implemented on January 1, 2000, and if the funds are not used the dollars would go to free cash.

The Moderator then called for the vote.

Ayes have it as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 3: Scott Lerner moved to transfer \$470,000 from Free Cash to be allocated to the following accounts for specific projects/equipment at their respective amounts:

Department	Project/Account	Amount
Police Dept.	Police Cruiser	\$28,000
Fire Dept.	Floor reconstruction and asbestos removal	\$258,000
Fire Dept.	Roof replacement	\$35,000
Fire Dept.	Concrete apron replacement	\$13,000
School Building Com.	Hopedale St. drainage study	\$8,800
School Dept.	Park Street window replacement	\$42,000
Board of Health	New recycling center concrete pad and fence	\$10,000
Road Comm, Forestry & Board of Health	Wood Chipper	\$29,000
Fire Dept.	Fire station design study	\$12,200
Bancroft Library	Statue of Hope and historic landscape/garden ¹	\$34,000

Motion duly seconded.

Mr. Glatky asked why Park Street school needs new windows. Andrea Hallion explained simply that the existing windows “don’t open”.

Moderator called for the vote. The ayes have it. Motion passed.

Notes:

1. A \$12,000 reimbursable grant will offset this expense. Net cost to Town is \$20,000. Town is therefore contributing \$20,000 toward total project cost of \$60,000.

ARTICLE 4: Al Sparling, Selectman moved to establish a Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account for the Ambulance Department, under GLc.40, §5F, replacing the previously established Revolving Account under GLc.44, §53E½ (adopted at the Special Town Meeting of 6/29/98) for the purpose of funding succeeding year’s Ambulance Department Operations.

Motion duly seconded and unanimously passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: Victor Best moved that the Town of Hopedale accept the applicability of the Civil Service law and rules to the regular or permanent members of the Police force, including intermittent reserve officers and the regular or permanent members of the Fire force subject to the provisions of chapter thirty-one of the General Laws and shall the tenure of any incumbents thereof be subject to the provisions of said chapter thirty-one?
If this is passed, then the Town is asked to take appropriate action to petition the State Legislature to enact enabling legislation to make effective the placement of the police and fire forces under the provisions of Civil Service to chapter thirty-one, including the repeal of section 2 of chapter 262 of the Acts of 1984.

Motion duly seconded.

Bernie Stock moves for a secret ballot.

Moderator says not necessary to vote on that motion.

Town Counsel overruled the Moderator.

Motion duly seconded. Unanimously passed by voice vote.

Town Clerk explained the process of the Secret Ballot. Board of Registrar members to assist at the appropriate time with voting.

Considerable discussion followed. Victor Best gave an explanation of why Civil Service would be a benefit to the Town. He explained that the officers are aware that they must take the Civil Service exam, and should they fail, they would lose their jobs.

Don Comastra, Chair of the FinCom explained why the FinCom disapproved (more beneficial to the employee, not the employer).

Ed Burt explained the Selectman's views and asked the voters to respect the Town Meeting in April of 1998, at which time this same motion was defeated.

Town Counsel, Theresa Dowdy gave an explanation of why other communities have moved away from Civil Service (too cumbersome).

Motion to included privileges of the floor to Mr. Shapiro, Counsel for Police Union.

Motion duly seconded and voted. Ayes have it as declared by the Moderator.

After hearing from Mr. Shapiro, Mr. Al Sparling, Selectman gave a further explanation of how Hopedale operate. His final statement was, Civil Service is not good for the Town of Hopedale.

After more discussion from the voters, the Moderator called for a vote.

The Main Motion carried by a secret ballot vote of 48 in favor, 34 opposed.

ARTICLE 6: Peter Mitchell of the Board of Health moved to transfer \$825 to the Board of Health from Free Cash to fund a wage increase for the Health Agent, effective 1/1/00.

Motion duly seconded and passed – ayes have it as declared by the Moderator.


Motion made and duly seconded to dissolve the warrant. Dissolved at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Ohannesian
Town Clerk

K:\STM11-09,99Motions.doc

A TRUE COPY ATTEST


HOPEDALE TOWN CLERK

Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts

Personnel Study Workshop

29 October, 1999

Bennett Associates

Warren J. Rutherford

Senior Consultant

Bennett Associates

Elements of the Classification System-The Rating Process

- Developed 33 common position descriptions to reflect duties, supervision, job environment, knowledge & experience, & physical and mental requirements.
- Evaluated FLSA exempt status and issued recommendations.
- Evaluated each position for these factors using a point-factor evaluation system.
- Assigned point totals for each position.
- Grouped positions with similar point totals into a similar grade into a classification schedule.

Elements of the Classification System-The Survey Process

- Conducted comparable wage survey with 15 communities, with 11 towns responding (Bellingham, Blackstone, Dighton, Franklin, Grafton, Holliston, Hopkinton, Mendon, Milford, Newbury, & Northbridge.
- Wage results were averaged for minimum & maximum pay, compared to each Hopedale position's wage, and a percent variance developed for each position.
- Developed a compensation schedule that would bring each Hopedale position to the survey average, as closely as possible.

Combining the Internal & External Data

- The classification schedule that reflects the internal rating of each position is combined with the compensation schedule for each position.
- The results are analyzed to determine the financial impact for the Town to implement **the classification plan and compensation schedule.**
- Recommended to implement plan and schedule for January 2000.
- Provided recommendations for plan maintenance.

CLASSIFICATION PLAN

Appendix B

Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts

Position Description Classification Grades

Grade	Grade Range	Point Rating	Position Title	Department
1	0 to 99	Vacant		
2	100 to 189	Vacant		
3	190 to 199			
4	200 to 204	200	Administrative Assistant	Board of Assessors
5	205 to 209	205	Library Assistant	Library
6	210 to 229	210	Assistant Treasurer/Collector	Treasurer/Collector
		210	Billing Administrative Secretary	Water
7	230 to 259	235	Operator	Wastewater Treatment
		240	Laborer	Water
		250	Senior Library Assistant	Library
8	260 to 299	260	Administrative Secretary	Board of Selectmen
		280	Equipment Operator/Laborer	Highway
		285	Council on Aging Director	Council on Aging
9	300 to 369	340	Children's Librarian	Library
		355	Foreman	Water
		360	Town Clerk	Town Clerk
10	370 to 469	375	Chief Operator/Chemist	Wastewater Treatment
		385	Associate Assessor	Board of Assessors
		395	Assistant Foreman	Highway
		395	Health Agent	Board of Health
		415	Town Accountant	Accountant
11	470 to 569	500	Treasurer/Collector	Treasurer/Collector
		525	Library Director	Library
		535	Building Commissioner/Zoning Officer	Building
		545	Wastewater Superintendent	Wastewater Treatment
		545	Lieutenant	Police
		565	Water Superintendent	Water
		565	Highway Foreman	Highway
12	570 to 760	690	Town Coordinator	Board of Selectmen
		730	Chief of Police	Police
		755	Fire Chief	Fire

COMPENSATION PLAN

Appendix C Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts Rate Schedule FY 2000

Grade	Hourly		Annual		Annual		% between Grades	% between Min/Max
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum at 40 hr.	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum		
					at 37.5 hr.			
1	8.00	9.60	16,640.00	19,968.00	15,600.00	18,720.00		20%
2	10.40	12.48	21,632.00	25,958.40	20,280.00	24,336.00	30%	20%
3	10.82	12.98	22,497.28	26,996.74	21,091.20	25,309.44	4%	20%
4	11.25	13.50	23,397.17	28,076.61	21,934.85	26,321.82	4%	20%
5	11.81	14.17	24,567.03	29,480.44	23,031.59	27,637.91	5%	20%
6	12.40	14.88	25,795.38	30,954.46	24,183.17	29,019.80	5%	20%
7	13.39	16.07	27,859.01	33,430.81	26,117.82	31,341.39	4%	20%
8	13.93	16.72	28,973.37	34,768.05	27,162.54	32,595.04	4%	20%
9	14.49	18.83	30,132.31	39,172.00	28,249.04	36,723.75	4%	30%
10	15.94	20.72	33,145.54	43,089.20	31,073.94	40,396.12	10%	30%
11	18.33	24.74	38,117.37	51,458.45	35,735.03	48,242.29	15%	35%
12	21.99	31.89	45,740.84	66,324.22	42,882.04	62,178.96	20%	45%

TOWN OF HOPEDALE – SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Monday, December 13th, 1999 at 7:00 o'clock in the evening
in the Memorial School Multi-purpose Room

Worcester SS: To either of the Constables in the Town of Hopedale in the County of Worcester.
Greetings: In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hopedale qualified to vote in town affairs to meet in the Memorial School Multi-purpose Room on Monday, December 13th, 1999, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening then and there to act on the following article:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate sums of money to adjust the Fiscal Year 2000 operating budget, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: Based upon the just-adopted state budget and consequent local aid adjustments, proposed increases total \$1,420,355 as distributed:

<u>Department/Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Health Insurance	\$82,000
Medicare	\$19,500
Unemployment Compensation	\$20,000
Workers' Compensation	\$14,000
School Department/School Building Committee (split to be determined)	\$1,284,855


Submitted by: Selectmen and Finance Committee

Fin. Com. Rec: At the meeting.

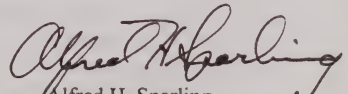
You are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof at the three public places in different parts of the Town not less than fourteen days before the holding of said meeting. Hereof fail not to make the due return of the meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 29th day of November 1999.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

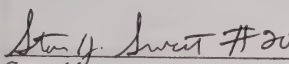

Edward Burt, Chairman

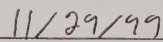

Michael Milanoski


Alfred H. Sparling


A True Copy, ATTEST:

Posted in the Town Hall, Community House, and Post Office Lobby.


Constable


Date

**TOWN OF HOPEDALE
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 1999**

MINUTES

The inhabitants of the Town of Hopedale qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, met in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Memorial School at 7:00 PM. At 7:30 PM the Honorable Francis J. Larkin, Town Moderator, called the Special Town Meeting to order and declared a quorum present. The meeting was called under the authority of a Warrant dated November 29, 1999 with a Return of Service dated November 29, 1999.

The Moderator asked for a Moment of Silence for the six Worcester Firefighters and particularly for Timothy Jackson, one of the six who lived in Hopedale.

The Moderator thanked Zeke Hammond and his assistants for the moving funeral ceremony held in Hopedale on Saturday, December 11th

Moderator Larkin moved to grant floor privileges to the following officials not residing in Hopedale: Superintendent, Andrea Hallion: Town Coordinator, Allan Klepper: Fire Chief, Scott Garland: Police Chief, Gene Costanza: Town Accountant, Sharon Emmerick: Town Treasurer, Denise Murphy.

Motion was made and duly seconded, and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Moderator introduced Fin.Com. Chairman, Don Comastra.

Article 1: I move to raise and appropriate \$1,328,855, to adjust the Fiscal Year 2000 operating budget to be distributed as follows:

Health Insurance	\$82,000
Medicare	\$19,500
Unemployment Compensation	\$20,000
Workers' Compensation	\$4,000
School Department	\$600,000
School Building Committee	\$600,000
Stabilization Fund	\$3,355


Motion duly seconded.

Moderator introduced Selectman Chair, Ed Burt. Ed gave a brief background of the reasons for this Article. There were no questions from the floor.

Motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

The Moderator thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was dissolved at 7:35 PM.

A True Copy Attest:


Ronda Ohannesian, Town Clerk



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

78 Hopedale Street - P.O. Box 7
Hopedale, Massachusetts 01747

Tel: 508-634-2203 Fax: 508-634-2200
E-mail: hope_bos@tp.net

Board of Selectmen
Edward J. Burt, Chm
Alfred H. Sparling
Michael Milanoski

Town Coordinator
Allan C. Klepper

March 6, 2000

Fellow Taxpayers of Hopedale,

With the mailing of this Warrant, your Board of Selectmen fulfill their pledge to provide information well in advance of the April 11th Town Meeting. The Annual Town Meeting Warrant has the language for all Articles and the detailed Budget for FY2001, as well as Finance Committee comments. The Special Town Meeting Warrant is for adjustments to the current year.

In order to allow sufficient time for printing and mailing, preparation of these documents was concluded sooner than usual. Understandably, there may be adjustments in the wordings of the actual meeting motions and/or in some of the dollar amounts; however, this document is highly representative of the finished product upon which you will vote.

Our budgeting goals for the coming year have been to level-fund our property tax receipts, thus no increases to our property taxes, and to complete the salary adjustment as defined by the Personnel Study. Last Fall, the results of the Personnel Study were accepted by Town Meeting vote: rating positions and establishing competitive compensation ranges. That initial study focused on 33 positions in municipal government. The FY2001 budget includes a general wage increase and individual adjustments recommended by a mini-study to determine the proper positioning of incumbents within their compensation range, considering their relevant experience and education. This effort continues the Selectmen's commitment to address the overall compensation status of all of your Town employees. We are convinced that attracting and retaining competent employees is in the best long-term interest of the Town.

Some of the budget highlights are:

- Preparation for the Town Hall renovation (including an ADA requirements upgrade and a new phone system).
- A major reduction in the Worcester County Retirement System assessment.
- A significant increase in Health Insurance costs.
- A self supporting Ambulance Service.

The other required monetary articles have all been accounted for in the proposed budget. It is worth noting that the 2 million dollar school article is an authorization for additional reimbursements, based upon preapproved Town funds. There is no effect on local taxes.

In addition to the budget items, the Warrant includes the proposed restructuring of the Tree Warden and Water & Sewer Commission. From many different sources, reasons such as candidate turnout and position expertise have lead to this proposal.

A Talent Bank Form has been included on the last page to encourage your participation on one of the many boards, commissions and committees that serve our community.

We hope that you will find this new approach helpful in your deliberations for Town Meetings. Your comments are welcome, as is your participation on April 11th.

Respectfully,

Edward Burt, Chairman

Michael Milanoski

Alfred H. Sparling



TOWN OF HOPEDALE
FINANCE COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 7
HOPEDALE, MA 01747

March 10, 2000

To the Residents of Hopedale:

The enclosed financial information represents the Hopedale Finance Committee's proposed budget for the Town for Fiscal Year 2001, beginning July 1, 2000.

Importantly, this budget proposal includes a stable levy amount, which means the average tax bill for residents will not increase in FY 2001, and we expect that the Town will be able to lower the tax rate in the Fall.

Highlights of the financial plan for the Town for the coming year include the following:

- Initial payments on the new High School renovation/addition project. These principle and interest costs total \$1.4 Million, \$802,000 of which will be reimbursed by the State.
- A proposal to lease/purchase a new ambulance for the Fire Department. Cost for this vehicle, which will replace the ambulance currently in use, is \$25,000 for FY 2001.
- Salary increases to align town workers' pay rates with the Personnel Study results of last year.

While changes may be made to this financial plan between the date of this writing and the Annual Town Meeting on April 11th, we anticipate they will not be significant.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Comastra, Chairman
Christine Devine
David Felper
Carla Hopkins
Paul Manning
Ken Mossman
Gene Phillips
Thad Reed

Modified: 3/10/00					
Printed: 3/10/00 6:22 AM					
	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 00 Recommend	FY 01 Request	FY 01 Recommend	Comments
	1 GENERAL FUND - 100 GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT				
5300	PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL	20,000	20,000	20,000	
5711	IN STATE TRAVEL				
151 DEPT	TOWN COUNSEL	20,000	20,000	20,000	
5111	SALARIES ELECTED OFFICIALS	200	200	200	
5420	OFFICE	50	50	50	
New	OTHER				
114 DEPT	TOWN MODERATOR	250	250	250	
5111	SALARIES ELECTED OFFICIALS	2,700	2,700	2,700	
5343	COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS	2,500	2,500	2,500	
5711	IN STATE TRAVEL	1,200	1,200	1,200	
	AWARDS (new 93)	200	200	200	
122 DEPT	SELECTMEN	6,600	6,600	6,600	
	MAINTAINENCE	5,500	5,000	5,000	
	SUPPLIES	500	500	500	
	SOFTWARE	9,000	9,950	9,950	
	HARDWARE				
	TRAVEL				
	UPGRADES				
191 DEPT	COMPUTER	15,000	15,450	15,450	
	SALARIES	52,979	55,942	55,942	Town Co-ord.
5130	PART TIME	12,071	14,565	14,565	Sec.
	OTHER PERSONAL SERVICES	1,500	2,000	2,000	
5300	PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL	5,000	7,500	7,500	
5341	COMMUNICATIONS/TELEPHONE	4,000	4,700	4,700	
5342	COMMUNICATIONS/POSTAGE	11,100	11,100	11,100	
5420	OFFICE	5,000	5,000	5,000	
5711	IN STATE TRAVEL	600	1,000	1,000	
123 DEPT	MANAGER	92,250	101,807	101,807	
5343	COMMUNICATIONS / REPORTS	1,000	1,000	1,000	Printing Costs
5420	OFFICE	500	500	500	
131 DEPT	FINANCE COMMITTEE	1,500	1,500	1,500	
	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	470,000	0	0	Fall Town Meeting
132 DEPT	RESERVE FUND	40,000	30,000	30,000	
5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT	38,644	40,884	40,884	
5300	PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL	1,500	1,500	1,500	
	ANNUAL TOWN AUDIT	12,000	12,000	12,000	
	SUPPLIES	500	500	500	
5711	IN STATE TRAVEL	1,000	1,200	1,200	
135 DEPT	ACCOUNTANT	53,644	56,084	56,084	
5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT	42,148	43,933	43,933	
5130	ADDITIONAL GROSS, OVERTIME				
5190	OTHER PERSONAL SERVICES	3,600	3,708	3,708	Board salaries
5240	REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	100	100	100	
5300	PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL (Res. Appraisals)	10,000	10,000	10,000	
5345	COMMUNICATIONS/DEEDS	400	500	500	
5346	COMMUNICATIONS/COMPUTERS	2,000	2,000	2,000	
5349	MAP UPDATING	1,000	1,000	1,000	
5420	OFFICE	1,000	1,500	1,500	
5711	IN STATE TRAVEL	1,200	1,200	1,200	
5850	ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT				
NEW	APPRAISAL CONTRACT (Commercial)	0	0	0	
141 DEPT	ASSESSORS	61,448	63,941	63,941	
5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT	63,254	68,611	68,611	Treasurer & P.T. Asst.
5300	PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL	12,625	12,625	12,625	
	PAYROLL	9,500	10,000	10,000	
	TAX TITLE	6,500	6,500	6,500	
5344	COMMUNICATIONS / TAX BILLS / POSTAGE	2,010	2,200	2,200	
5711	IN STATE TRAVEL	1,000	1,200	1,200	
5714	PETTY CASH	100	100	100	
145 DEPT	TREASURER / COLLECTOR	94,989	101,236	101,236	

5111	SALARIES ELECTED OFFICIALS	20,600	21,012	21,012	
5190	OTHER PERSONAL SERVICES	0			
5300	PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL	1,000	500	500	
5343	COMMUNICATIONS / REPORTS / TELEPHONE	550	550	550	
5420	OFFICE	1,000	1,000	1,000	
5580	OTHER SUPPLIES	0			
5711	IN STATE TRAVEL/DUES	350	1,000	1,000	
161 DEPT	TOWN CLERK	23,500	24,062	24,062	
5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT	1,500	2,900	2,900	
5420	OFFICE	350	350	350	
	PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL	2,500	2,500	2,500	
	POLICE DETAIL	0			
162 DEPT	ELECTIONS	4,350	5,750	5,750	
5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT	1,302	1,302	1,302	
5190	OTHER PERSONAL SERVICES	434	434	434	
5712	IN STATE MEALS				
	PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL	1,400	1,400	1,400	
5346	COMMUNICATIONS/COMPUTERS				
163 DEPT	REGISTRATION	3,136	3,136	3,136	
	SALARY				
5300	PROF & TECH SERVICE	550	1,100	1,100	
166 DEPT	PARKING CLERK	550	1,100	1,100	
5347	COMMUNICATIONS / NOTICES	325	325	325	
5780	OTHERWISE UNCLASSIFIED	175	175	175	
171 DEPT	CONSERVATION COMMITTEE	500	500	500	
	SALARIES	0	900	900	Sec. Support
5300	PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL	500	500	500	
5711	IN STATE TRAVEL	0	0	0	
175 DEPT	PLANNING BOARD	500	1,400	1,400	
5347	COMMUNICATIONS / NOTICES	750	750	750	
5348	COMMUNICATIONS / PRINTING				
176 DEPT	ZONING BOARD	750	750	750	
5580	OTHER SUPPLIES	200	200	200	
189 DEPT	INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORP	200	200	200	
5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT				
5190	OTHER PERSONAL SERVICES	5,200	5,350	5,350	
5211	ENERGY ELECTRIC	8,446	8,450	8,450	
5212	ENERGY HEAT FUEL	8,961	8,950	8,950	
5240	SUPPLIES & REPAIRS/MAINT.	10,750	11,000	11,000	
5430	OTHER	0	14,500	0	
192 DEPT	PUBLIC BLD - TOWN HALL	33,357	48,250	33,750	
	PRINTING	250			
	PERSONNEL CONSULTANT	10,000	1,000	1,000	
152	PERSONNEL COMMITTEE	10,250	1,000	1,000	
TOTAL - GENERAL GOV.		932,774	483,016	468,516	
<u>1 GENERAL FUND - 200 PUBLIC SAFETY</u>					
5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT	460,493	505,136	505,136	
5130	ADDITIONAL GROSS, OVERTIME	25,000	29,111	25,000	
5300	PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL	21,211	23,606	23,606	
5480	VEHICULAR (Maint, Fuel, Lease)	16,629	17,929	17,929	
5580	OTHER SUPPLIES	24,497	27,447	27,447	
5711	IN STATE TRAVEL	400	400	400	
5850	ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT	2,500	2,500	2,500	
9999	CRUISER				
	BLDG. MAINT. (New '95)	16,057	16,993	16,993	
5720	E 911 DISPATCHERS				
5720	DISPATCH SALARIES	83,728	98,329	98,329	
5720	DISPATCH OVERTIME				
210 DEPT	POLICE	650,515	721,451	717,340	

5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT	179,214	182,483	182,483
5120	SALARY & WAGES TEMPORARY	25,685	35,818	35,818
5130	ADDITIONAL GROSS, OVERTIME	31,404	35,439	35,439
5190	PERSONAL SERVICES (Clothing)	500	850	850
5240	REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	9,800	9,900	9,900
5300	PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL	4,350	4,350	4,350
5580	OFFICE SUPPLIES & UNIFORMS	6,500	6,500	6,500
5711	IN STATE TRAVEL	510	860	860
5820	BUILDING EXPENSES	23,700	24,000	24,000
5851	ALARM SERVICES	1,000	3,375	3,375
5852	FIRE DIST. DUES new fy 94	1,000	1,000	1,000
5853	NEW EQUIPMENT	10,500	11,000	11,000
	TANKER CONVERSION	4,400		
	Hose Replacement			
9999	SCBA REPLACE AND UPGRADE	3,500	3,500	3,500
	hepta vacs/98 = education			
	rehab food	0		
220 DEPT	FIRE	302,063	318,875	318,875
231	AMBULANCE SALARIES	27,727	29,226	29,226
	AMBUL. RETAINERS, O.T., ETC.	24,798	29,742	29,742
	AMBULANCE OPERATIONS	7,900	7,900	7,900
231 DEPT	NEW AMBULANCE LEASE + STRETCHER		28,000	28,000
	AMBULANCE	60,425	94,868	94,868
	POLICE DETAIL SALARIES	5,000	5,000	5,000
	TOWN POLICE DETAIL	5,000	5,000	5,000
5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT	10,970	12,001	12,001
5300	EXPENSES (DUES, TRAVEL, SEMINARS, ETC.)	500	1,000	1,000
5420	DEPT SUPPLIES	1,000	1,500	1,500
5580	OTHER SUPPLIES			
9999				
241 DEPT	BUILDING INSPECTOR	12,470	14,501	14,501
5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT	1,700	2,500	2,500
	EDUCATION	300	300	300
243 DEPT	PLUMBING INSPECTOR	2,000	2,800	2,800
5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT	1,700	2,500	2,500
	EDUCATION	300	300	300
245 DEPT	ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR	2,000	2,800	2,800
5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT			
5210	ENERGY	85	85	85
5580	OTHER SUPPLIES	113	147	147
5711	IN STATE TRAVEL	75	75	75
5780	OTHERWISE UNCLASSIFIED	55	55	55
5850	ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT	300	300	300
	TRAINING (new 94)	500	500	500
	OTHER ('95 Generator Repair)			
291 DEPT	CIVIL DEFENSE	1,128	1,162	1,162
5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT	6,000	6,000	6,000
5580	OTHER SUPPLIES (BLDG. REP/MAINT.)	300	300	300
5730	DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS (Animal Inspect.)	500	500	500
292 DEPT	DOG OFFICER	6,800	6,800	6,800
5111	SALARIES ELECTED OFFICIALS	600	600	600
5190	OTHER PERSONAL SERVICES	9200	9200	9200
5460	GROUNDKEEPING	1150	1150	1150
5580	OTHER SUPPLIES	100	100	100
5711	IN STATE TRAVEL	150	150	150
294 DEPT	FORESTRY-TREE PLANTING	11,200	11,200	11,200
5190	OTHER PERSONAL SERVICES	300	300	300
295 DEPT	FORESTRY-PEST CONTROL	300	300	300
	SALARIES	850	850	850
	OFFICE	150	150	150
247 DEPT	WEIGHTS & MEASURES	1,000	1,000	1,000
5190	OTHER PERSONAL SERVICES	750	750	750
295 DEPT	FORESTRY-DUTCH ELM	750	750	750
	TOTAL - PUBLIC SAFETY	1,055,651	1,181,507	1,177,396

1 GENERAL FUND - 300 EDUCATION				
	SCHOOLS	6,680,775	7,014,814	6,903,464
	SCHOOL BUS/van			
	MAINT. / SCHOOL BLD.COM	600,000	0	0
	SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	7,280,775	7,014,814	6,903,464
1 GENERAL FUND - 400 PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES				
5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT	158,302	200,427	200,427
5111	SALARIES ELECTED OFFICIALS	1,400	1,400	1,400
5130	ADDITIONAL GROSS, OVERTIME	8,000	9,500	9,500
5190	PERSONEL SERVICES(sec. minutes)	900	900	900
5240	REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	30,000	38,000	32,800
5290	OTHER PROPERTY-RELATED SERVICES (Utilities)	6,830	7,500	7,500
5292	TRAFFIC SIGNS	2,000	2,000	2,000
5380	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES (Uniforms)	2,700	3,000	3,000
5460	GROUNDKEEPING (loam fertilizer, police, library)	1,000	1,000	1,000
5480	VEHICULAR (fuel)	4,830	5,500	5,500
5535	PUBLIC WORKS (sidewalks)	25,000	40,000	40,000
5580	OTHER SUPPLIES (tools)	2,000	2,000	2,000
5711	IN STATE TRAVEL (inc. dues, seminars)	700	1,000	1,000
5850	ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT	9,000	5,800	5,800
	OTHER PROJECTS OR EQUIPT.	3,000	4,000	4,000
422 DEPT	HIGHWAY	255,662	322,027	316,827
5291	CONTRACTED SNOW REMOVAL	8,000	10,000	8,000
5130	SNOW REMOVAL OVERTIME	10,000	14,000	10,000
5240	SNOW RELATED MAINTENANCE	10,000	10,000	10,000
	FUEL	2,000	2,000	2,000
5293	SAND & SALT	24,000	30,000	24,000
	SNOW REMOVAL	54,000	66,000	54,000
5210	ENERGY	33,000	33,000	33,000
424 DEPT	STREET LIGHTING	33,000	33,000	33,000
5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT	950	950	950
5460	GROUNDKEEPING	1,550	1,550	1,550
491 DEPT	CEMETERY	2,500	2,500	2,500
TOTAL - PUBLIC WORKS		345,162	423,527	406,327
1 GENERAL FUND - 500 HUMAN SERVICES				
5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT	7,725	9,328	9,328 Inc. hours
5111	SALARIES ELECTED OFFICIALS	1,400	1,800	1,800
5190	OTHER PERSONAL SERVICES	300	300	300
5193	TESTING OF POND/WELLS WATER	250	250	250
5290	TRASH REMOVAL	246,621	252,865	252,865
5300	PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL	3,000	3,000	3,000
5348	COMMUNICATIONS/PRINTING & TELEPHONE	1,000	1,000	1,000
5580	OTHER SUPPLIES	475	475	475
5711	IN STATE TRAVEL	1,000	1,000	1,000
	HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION	0	5,000	5,000
9999	MISCELLANEOUS			
511 DEPT	HEALTH OFFICER	261,771	275,018	275,018
5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT	22,094	22,908	22,908
5210	ENERGY	1,000	1,000	1,000
5350	RECREATION	2,000	2,000	2,000
5380	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	12,000	12,000	12,000
5580	OTHER SUPPLIES	4,428	4,428	4,428
	SENIOR CITIZEN TAX CREDITS	12,500	12,500	12,500
	Clerical services	0		
	Bus Driver	0		
	Van Maint	0		
5711	IN STATE TRAVEL	900	900	900
541 DEPT	COUNCIL ON AGING	54,922	55,736	55,736
5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT	2,460	2,460	2,460
5770	VETERAN'S BENEFITS	2,000	2,000	2,000
543 DEPT	VETERANS	4,460	4,460	4,460
5347	COMMUNICATIONS/NOTICE	200	200	200
5711	IN STATE TRAVEL			
	ADA STUDIES			
549 DEPT	COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES	200	200	200
TOTAL - HUMAN SERVICES		321,353	335,414	335,414

1 GENERAL FUND - 600 CULTURE AND RECREATION				
5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT	88,288	102,144	102,144
5210	ENERGY	12,000	12,000	12,000
5240	REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	9,000	9,000	9,000
5300	PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL (Bindings)	200	200	200
5510	EDUCATIONAL (Books)	26,080	31,069	31,069
5580	OTHER SUPPLIES	2,500	2,500	2,500
5850	LIBRARY RAMP (1995)			
9999	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS			
610 DEPT	LIBRARY	138,068	156,913	156,913
5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT	16,608	27,383	27,383
5111	SALARIES ELECTED OFFICIALS	800	800	800
5190	OTHER PERSONAL SERVICES	1,500	1,500	1,500
5192	WEED CONTROL	0	0	0
5210	ENERGY	1,900	1,600	1,600
5240	REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	3,000	2,000	2,000
5580	OTHER SUPPLIES	1,000	1,000	1,000
5870	REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT	1,000	1,000	1,000
	WATER (IRRIGATION)	2,000	1,000	1,000
650 DEPT	PARKS	27,808	36,283	36,283
	RED SHOP	0	0	0
	ENERGY ELECTRIC (Inc. alarm, minor repairs)	1,000	1,250	1,250
	RED SHOP TOTAL	1,000	1,250	1,250
5420	OFFICE	30	500	500
5580	PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES	970	750	750
	MASS HIST. COMM GRANT APPL		15,000	15,000
691 DEPT	HISTORICAL COMMITTEE	1,000	16,250	16,250
5350	RECREATIONAL	1,000	1,000	1,000
692 DEPT	MEMORIAL DAY	1,000	1,000	1,000
5350	RECREATIONAL (Band concerts)	3,100	3,800	3,800
699 DEPT	CULTURAL COUNCIL	3,100	3,800	3,800
TOTAL - CULTURE AND RECREATION		171,976	215,496	215,496
1 GENERAL FUND - 700 DEBT SERVICE				
5911	MUNICIPAL HTNG FACILITY PRINC	0		
5912	SCHOOL BUSES PRINCIPLE	0		
5913	FIRE VEHICLES PRINCIPLE	0		
	SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PRINCIPLE	430,000	430,000	430,000
	HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT PRINCIPLE	20,000	0	0
	POLICE BLDG PRINCIPLE	80,000	0	0
	HIGH SCHOOL		665,000	665,000
710 DEPT	RETIREMENT OF DEBT	530,000	1,095,000	1,095,000
	MUNICIPAL HEATING FACILITY INT			
	SCHOOL BUSES INTEREST	0		
	FIRE VEHICLES INTEREST	0		
5916	HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT INTEREST	1,120		
5917	POLICE BLDG INTEREST	4,574		
5918	MEM. SCHOOL BLDG INTEREST	299,928	279,503	279,503
	HIGH SCHOOL BLDG INTEREST		795,000	795,000
751 DEPT	INTEREST ON LONG TERM DEBT	305,622	1,074,503	1,074,503
5925	TAX / BOND ANTICIPATION LOAN	20,000	16,920	16,920 Sewer expan. study
	SCHOOL CONST. SHORT-TERM INTEREST	221,250	0	0
752 DEPT	INTEREST ON SHORT TERM DEBT	241,250	16,920	16,920
TOTAL - DEBT SERVICE		1,076,872	2,186,423	2,186,423

1 GENERAL FUND - 800 INTERGOVERNMENTAL				
5623	COUNTY RETIREMENT ASSESSMENT + TAX	352,652	237,873	237,873
830 DEPT	COUNTY ASSESSMENTS	352,652	237,873	237,873
5730	OPERATIONS + CAP ITEMS	29,913	34,112	34,112 Tuitions & Truck Purchase
845 DEPT	BLACKSTONE VLY REG. SCHOOL DIST.	29,913	34,112	34,112
5730	DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	1,067	1,094	1,094
847 DEPT	CENTRAL MASS.REG.PLANNING DIST.	1,067	1,094	1,094
5780	OTHERWISE UNCLASSIFIED	3,355		
850 DEPT	STABILIZATION FUND DEPOSIT	3,355		
TOTAL INTERGOV.		386,987	273,079	273,079
1 GENERAL FUND - 900 MISCELLANEOUS				
5170	FRINGE BENEFITS, ON BEHALF EMPLOYEES	27,500	27,500	27,500
913 DEPT	UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	27,500	27,500	27,500
5170	FRINGE BENEFITS, ON BEHALF EMPLOYEES	77,500	80,000	80,000
914 DEPT	MEDICARE	77,500	80,000	80,000
5740	INSURANCE PREMIUMS	738,660	868,430	868,430 Up 18%
915 DEPT	HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE	738,660	868,430	868,430
5740	WORKERS COMP. (NEW FY '96)	14,000	14,000	14,000
945 DEPT	INSURANCE PREMIUMS	90,000	94,000	94,000
	LIABILITY & WORKERS COMP.	104,000	108,000	108,000
PRIOR YR. BILLS / OVERLAY DEFICIT		0	57,102	57,102 Net after surpluses
TOTAL - MISCELLANEOUS		947,660	1,141,032	1,141,032
TOTAL		12,519,210	13,254,308	13,107,147
TOTAL INC. STAB. FUND		12,519,210	13,254,308	13,107,147
20 WATER & 21 SEWER - 400 PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES				
5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT	110,019	117,810	117,810
5111	SALARIES ELECTED OFFICIALS	700	700	700
5130	ADDITIONAL GROSS, OVERTIME	15,469	18,500	18,500
5194	CONTRACTED SERVICES, CLERICAL (Start FY93)	0	0	0
5190	OTHER PERSONAL SERVICES	16,480	7,000	7,000
5210	ENERGY	35,320	35,320	35,320
5300	PROF & TECH & TESTING	16,000	25,480	25,480
5342	COMMUNICATIONS/POSTAGE	1,665	1,665	1,665
5380	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	1,500	1,500	1,500
5410	ENERGY (WATER PURCHASES)	53,560	70,000	70,000
5430	CHEMICAL	18,025	18,025	18,025
5480	REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	23,500	23,500	23,500
5711	VEHICULAR	2,000	2,000	2,000
5740	IN STATE TRAVEL	2,500	2,500	2,500
5830	INSURANCE PREMIUMS	17,412	14,432	14,432
	PLANT (WELL FIELDS)	40,000	10,000	10,000
	HYDRANT STANDBY	9,350	16,319	16,319
	REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT	0		
	WELL HEAD PROTECTION ARTICLE	4,300		
5870	CAPITAL PROJECTS	30,000	23,000	23,000
	LEGAL	0		
450 DEPT	WATER	397,800	387,751	387,751

5110	SALARY & WAGES PERMANENT	110,708	120,836	120,836	
5111	SALARIES ELECTED OFFICIALS	700	700	700	
5130	ADDITIONAL GROSS, OVERTIME	12,040	13,260	13,260	
NEW	CONTRACTED SERVICES, CLERICAL (Start FY93)	0	0	0	
5190	OTHER PERSONAL SERVICES	23,000	23,000	23,000	
5210	ENERGY	55,000	55,000	55,000	
5300	PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL	4,000	4,000	4,000	
5342	COMMUNICATIONS/POSTAGE	1,660	1,660	1,660	
5380	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	1,500	1,500	1,500	
5410	COMPOSTING	54,000	54,000	54,000	
5412	ENERGY (CHEMICALS)	20,000	20,000	20,000	
5430	BUILDING REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	24,000	24,000	24,000	
5480	VEHICULAR	2,500	2,500	2,500	
5581	MILFORD CONNECTIONS	0			
5711	IN STATE TRAVEL	1,200	1,400	1,400	
5740	INDIRECT COSTS - TREAS. , ACCT.	0	0	0	
5850	INDIRECT COSTS - INSUR. PENSION, WORK, COMP.	24,729	20,720	20,720	
5870	CAPITAL PROJECTS	20,000	20,000	20,000	
	LEGAL	0			
440 DEPT	SEWER	355,037	362,576	362,576	
5914	SEWER BOND INTEREST	54,745	52,464	52,464	
5919	SEWER BOND PRINCIPAL	45,625	45,625	45,625	
710 DEPT	SEWER BOND TOTAL	100,370	98,089	98,089	
	TOTAL - WATER & SEWER	853,207	848,416	848,416	
	TOTAL INCLUDING WATER & SEWER	13,372,417	14,102,724	13,955,563	
	OTHER LOCAL EXPENDITURES				
	OVERLAY RESERVE FOR TAX ABATEMENTS	125,000	125,000	100,000	
	CHERRY SHEET CHARGES	17,831	10,616	10,616	
	OVERLAY DEFICIT OF PRIOR YEARS	96,918			
	CHERRY SHEET OFFSETS	13,021			
	RESERVED FOR APPROPRIATION				
	SCHOOL CHOICE	288,000	300,000	300,000	Outgoing students
	SCHOOL - CHARTER SCHOOLS	12,000			
	PRIOR YEAR DEFICIT				
	TOTAL OTHER LOCAL EXPENDITURES	552,770	435,616	410,616	
	SUBTOTAL RECOMMENDED EXPENDITURES	13,925,187	14,538,340	14,366,179	
	LOCAL RECEIPTS:				
	MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	550,000	550,000	571,300	
	PENALTIES AND INTEREST ON TAXES AND EXCISES	50,000	35,000	35,000	
	FIRE ALARM SYSTEM				
	POLICE PERMITS				
	RENTALS	27,000	27,000	27,000	
	DEPARTMENT REVENUE - SCHOOLS				
	DEPARTMENT REVENUE - Ambulance		94,868	94,868	
	OTHER DEPARTMENT REVENUE	38,000	30,000	30,000	
	LICENSES AND PERMITS	50,000	70,000	70,000	
	FINES AND FORFEITS	25,400	20,000	20,000	
	INVESTMENT INCOME	100,000	120,000	120,000	
	WATER REVENUE	342,390	387,751	387,751	
	SEWER REVENUE	355,037	362,576	362,576	
	MUNICIPAL LIENS				
	SEWER SURPLUS REVENUE				
	WATER SURPLUS/ Avail. Funds				
	MEDICAID REIMBURS				
	OTHER RECEIPTS	23,000	30,000	30,000	
	SEWER BOND	100,370	98,089	98,089	
	TOTAL LOCAL RECEIPTS	1,661,197	1,825,284	1,846,584	
	OTHER REVENUE SOURCES:				
	OVERLAY SURPLUS				
	CHERRY SHEET RECEIPTS	5,248,936	5,283,798	5,283,798	
	SCHOOL CHOICE OFFSET				
	CHERRY SHEET OVERESTIMATE				
	FROM BOND ISSUES/STABILIZATION	175,000			
	FREE CASH	496,425			
	FIRE DEPT. ALARM OFFSET				
	CONTRACTED SERVICES FROM WATER & SEWER				
	STATE REIMBURSEMENT	430,571	1,232,627	1,232,627	
	TOTAL OTHER REVENUE SOURCES	6,350,932	6,516,425	6,516,425	
	TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS	8,012,129	8,341,709	8,363,009	
	NET AMOUNT TO BE RAISED	5,913,058	6,196,631	6,003,170	

Change from LI to RB that area roughly bounded by and setback 300' from Greene St., Dana Park Rd., Mill St., and Plain St., by a 500' setback from South Main St., by a portion of the center line of South Main St. and by the Milford-Hopedale Town Line.



TOWN OF HOPEDALE – ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Tuesday, April 11th, 2000 at 7:00 o'clock in the evening
in the Memorial School Multi-purpose Room

Worcester SS: To either of the Constables in the Town of Hopedale in the County of Worcester.
Greetings: In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hopedale qualified to vote in town affairs to meet in the Memorial School Multi-purpose Room on Tuesday, April 11th, 2000, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to hear and act upon the report of the Selectmen and other offices, departments, or committees of said town, or take any other action related thereto.
Submitted by: Board of Selectmen Fin Com Rec: Favorable

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to GLc.41, §1B, to change the position of Tree Warden from an elected position with a term of three years to a position, annually appointed by the Board of Selectmen, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: This change, allowed by state law, will assure that a knowledgeable, experienced person performs that function for the Town. The Town must also ratify this change by election ballot. The current incumbent is an appointee filling the unexpired term ending May 2000.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen
Fin Com Rec: Favorable

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to GLc.41, §1B, to change the Water and Sewer Commissioners from elected positions with staggered terms of three years to appointed positions with staggered terms of three years, annually appointed by the Board of Selectmen, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: This change, allowed by state law, will modify the Town Meeting vote of June 12, 1972 that established an elected Sewer Board, and the April 5, 1982 Town Meeting vote that combined the Water & Sewer Boards into a single elected Commission. The Town must also ratify this change by election ballot. If voted both at the Town Meeting and the May election, the changeover would normally take place over the next three years as each elected term ends. To expedite the spirit of the change however, current elected members of the Water & Sewer Commission will all resign with the understanding and agreement by the Board of Selectmen that they will each be appointed for the remainders of their just vacated elected terms.

Submitted by: Water & Sewer Commission Fin Com Rec: Favorable

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to GLc.41, §108 to fix the annual salary and compensation for each elected Town officer for his/her service in fiscal year 2001, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: The proposed amounts are:

<i>Position</i>	<i>Total Compensation for Position(s)</i>
<i>Town Moderator (1)</i>	<i>\$200</i>
<i>Board of Selectmen (3)</i>	<i>\$2,700</i>
<i>Town Clerk (1)*</i>	<i>\$21,012</i>
<i>Road Commissioners (3)</i>	<i>\$1,400</i>
<i>Board of Health (3)</i>	<i>\$1,400</i>
<i>Park Commissioners (3)</i>	<i>\$800</i>
<i>Water/Sewer Commissioners (3)</i>	<i>\$1,400</i>
<i>Tree Warden (1)</i>	<i>\$600</i>

** Town Clerk is paid weekly; all others twice per year.*

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Fin Com Rec: Favorable

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate through assessments provided under GLc.83, §16, and to be collected under GLc.44, §53E. bond issue payments of \$98,089 for the Sewer Department, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Water and Sewer Commissioners

Fin Com Rec: Favorable

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$15,000 for the preparation of the nomination process for a Hopedale Historic District to be placed on the National Registry of Historic Places, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: Funds will be subject to 60% reimbursable state grant with a net cost to Town of \$6,000.

Submitted by: Historical Commission

Fin Com Rec: Favorable

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available Treasury funds, such sums of money as deemed necessary to defray Town charges for Fiscal Year 2001 as contained in the Finance Committee Budget Report, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Fin Com Rec: Favorable

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, a sum of monies into the Reserve Fund, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: The proposed amount is \$45,000.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Fin Com Rec: Favorable

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of monies into and/or out of the Stb'ilization Fund as provided under GLc.40, §5B, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Fin Com Rec: Favorable

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town, as a member of the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District, will vote to raise and appropriate \$753 for its proportionate share based on the operation ratio for FY2001, for an 11,000 pound diesel dump truck equipped for plowing and for transporting equipment to sites for approved member town projects, at a total anticipated vehicle cost of \$45,000, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: This is a replacement vehicle, not an addition.

Submitted by: Blackstone Valley Vocational Rgnl. School Dist.

Fin Com Rec: Favorable

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to lease-purchase an ambulance over a period exceeding three years (four), at a total cost, including financing, not to exceed \$100,000, (with estimated annual payments of \$25,000), to be funded from ambulance service revenues (a Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account under GLc.40, §5F) or, if insufficient, from general revenues, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: The Service's initial ambulance was purchased used. It will soon reach the end of its utility. The new ambulance is expected to be fully funded from ambulance service revenues but the language of the article contains the proviso for alternate financing, legally required for the four-year lease-purchase contract.

Submitted by: Fire Chief

Fin Com Rec: Favorable

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to amend the April 8th, 1997 Town Meeting vote that authorized the renovation, expansion and furnishing of the Hopedale Junior/Senior High School by raising and appropriating, borrowing or transferring the additional sum of \$2,000,000 thereby increasing the total allocation for the project from \$13,250,000 to \$15,250,000, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: The \$2,000,000 increase is understood to be 71% reimbursable by the SBAB, same as the original project, which will be confirmed prior to 4/11/00, and the Town's portion (29% of the \$2,000,000 or \$580,000) will be paid from funds already received and approved last year. Therefore there is no budget or tax impact associated with this article. Approval of this article allows the town to pursue the additional state reimbursement.

Submitted by: School Building Committee

Fin Com Rec: Favorable

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the continued use of a revolving fund pursuant to GLc.44, §53E½ for the purpose of funding a hazardous waste collection day and recycling program to include composting and yard waste and other related costs, which fund shall be credited with receipts from the Board of Health to be expended under the authority of the Board of Health, such expenditure not to exceed \$10,000 for fiscal year 2001 from said revolving fund, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Health

Fin Com Rec: Favorable

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the continued use of a revolving fund pursuant to GLc.44, §53E½ for the purpose of funding the operating costs of the animal control division of the Hopedale Board of Health, which fund will be credited with receipts for the boarding of stray animals, fines for violations, and the licensing of animals, to be expended under the authority of the Board of Health, such expenditures not to exceed \$10,000 for fiscal year 2001; or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Health

Fin Com Rec: Favorable

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Conservation Commission to spend without further appropriation in accordance with GLc.131, §40 certain sums as received in filing fees from prior fiscal years, for the fiscal year 2001, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Conservation Commission

Fin Com Rec: Favorable

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell at public or private sale, for such price as they consider equitable, and upon such terms and conditions as they deem necessary, parcels of vacant land presently under the control of the Board of Selectmen and not required for any municipal purposes. The total area of land sold to any one person shall not exceed two acres. A record of all sales giving the names and addresses of the purchasers, the area and location of the land sold and the price sold therefore shall be kept by the Selectmen and shall be available for public inspection at all reasonable times. Authority therefore to expire June 30, 2001.

Commentary: A number of parcels have become Town property as a result of tax title takings. The Selectmen seek authority to dispose of the small ones by offering them to abutters as have been done in the past.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Fin Com Rec: Favorable

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of Chapter 90 State reimbursement funds for the purpose of providing road paving/improvement projects, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Road Commissioners

Fin Com Rec: Favorable

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the borrowing of the \$376,000, originally appropriated at the Special Town Meeting held on June 29, 1998, for the design and preparation of sewer system extension plans for the Freedom Street and South Hopedale areas, and that in connection therewith, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is hereby authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to the provisions of G.L.c. 44, §7(22), or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: This vote is necessary to clarify the Town Treasurer's option for funding this design/engineering activity. It is not a change from the original amount authorized.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Fin Com Rec: Favorable

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Hopedale Zoning Bylaws by adopting the following zoning change, or take any other action related thereto:

Change zoning map from Light Industrial (LI) to Residential B (RB) that area roughly bounded by and setback 300' from Greene Street, Dana Park Road, Mill Street, and Plain Street. by 500' setback from South Main Street, by a portion of the center line of South Main Street and by the Milford-Hopedale Town Line as shown on a map on file with the Planning Board.

Commentary: Prior to the original zoning change to LI, a subdivision plan was submitted that subsequently became Harmony Estates. As the area is totally slated for single family home development, it is appropriate to return the site to Residential B status. See enclosed map.

Submitted by: Planning Board

Fin Com Rec: Favorable

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to amend the article passed at the November 9th, 1999 Special Town Meeting that resulted in petitioning the legislature to enact House Bill 4933: "SECTION 1. Section two of chapter two hundred and sixty-two of the acts of nineteen hundred and eighty-four is hereby repealed. SECTION 2. The positions of regular or permanent members of the police force, including intermittent reserve officers and regular or permanent members of the fire department of the town of Hopedale, shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 31 of the General Laws and the tenure of any incumbent thereof shall be unlimited, subject to the provisions of said chapter 31.", by adding the following: **"the civil service law, and which would further provide that, notwithstanding Mass. G.L.c.31, §56, ¶1 or any general or special law to the contrary, public safety personnel hired during the six month period preceding enactment of such special legislation shall be included as civil service employees under said Chapter 31, subject to any applicable probationary period."**

Commentary: This amendment, sponsored by the local Unions that were the original petitioners, is supported by the Selectmen, as a mutually agreed-upon necessity, requested by the legislature in order to satisfy legislative procedures. The Unions and Selectmen endorse this article, which allows the Town to hire new employees prior to the Town's final civil service decision in the May election ballot.

Submitted by: Mass-Cop, Local 164 and IAFF, Local 2225

Fin Com Rec: At meeting.

You are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof at the three public places in different parts of the Town not less than seven days before the holding of said meeting.

Hereof fail not to make the due return of the meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 6th day of March 2000.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Edward Burt

Edward Burt, Chairman

Michael Milanoski

Michael Milanoski

Alfred H. Sparling

Alfred H. Sparling

A True Copy, ATTEST:

Randal Channiceau

Posted in the Town Hall, Community House, and Post Office Lobby.

[Signature]

Constable

KA\TownMeetings00\TM4-11,2000.doc

Date

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Randal Channiceau

HOPEDALE TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF HOPEDALE – ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ADDENDUM

Tuesday, April 11th, 2000 at 7:00 o'clock in the evening
in the Memorial School Multi-purpose Room

Worcester SS: To either of the Constables in the Town of Hopedale, County of Worcester.
Greetings: In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hopedale qualified to vote in town affairs to meet in the Memorial School Multi-purpose Room on Tuesday, April 11th, 2000, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening then and there to act on the following article:

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 1995 to join the Central Mass Economic Development Authority (CMEDA), or take any other action related thereto:

Commentary: Joining this powerful regional development agency will bring an added dimension to the Town's efforts to revitalize the Draper Complex to economic vitality. Development projects under the CMEDA umbrella will be subject to tax savings, especially in areas of site contamination removal and cleanup, as well as low interest financing and liability protection. Hopedale will be entitled to one board member to serve on the 10 community CMEDA Board. Annual operational assessments will be \$.50 per capita for this valuable assistance.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Fin Com Rec: At meeting.

You are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof at the three public places in different parts of the Town not less than seven days before the holding of said meeting.

Hereof fail not to make the due return of the meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 4th day of April 2000.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



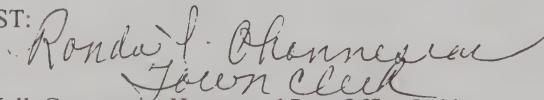
Edward Burt, Chairman



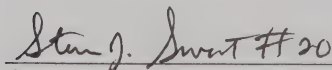
Michael Milanoski

Alfred H. Sparling

A True Copy, ATTEST:


Town Clerk

Posted in the Town Hall, Community House, and Post Office Lobby.


#20

Constable

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040400

Date

TOWN OF HOPEDALE – SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Tuesday, April 11th, 2000 at 7:00 o'clock in the evening
in the Memorial School Multi-purpose Room

Worcester SS: To either of the Constables in the Town of Hopedale in the County of Worcester.
Greetings: In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hopedale qualified to vote in town affairs to meet in the Memorial School Multi-purpose Room on Tuesday, April 11th, 2000, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to transfer sums of money from certain accounts to others to adjust the fiscal year 2000 operating budget, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: Potential sources and uses of funds are listed. Final details have yet to be determined: actual transfers will be specific in detail as to source and use.

<u>To Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>From Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Library Books	\$1,917	COA Transportation	\$1,917
Legal Expenses	\$22,600	Snow & Ice	\$8,000
Legal Expenses		COA Transportation	\$1,083
Legal Expenses		Memorial Day	\$517
Legal Expenses		Reserve Fund	\$13,000
Workers' Compensation	\$20,000	School Department	\$20,000
Town Hall Maintenance	\$4,000	Rosenfeld Land Acquisition	\$4,000
Electrical Inspector	\$1,000	Veterans' Services	\$1,000
Water Hydrant Rental	\$6,300	Water Retained Earnings	\$6,300
Water Overtime	\$2,500	Water Retained Earnings	\$2,500
Fire Dept. Part-time Salary	\$4,000	Fire Station Floor Study ¹	\$2,350
Fire Dept. Part-time Salary		Rosenfeld Land Acquisition	\$250
Fire Dept. Part-time Salary		Treasurer Prof. & Tech.	\$1,400
Fire Repairs & Maintenance	\$3,000	Treasurer Prof. & Tech.	\$600
Fire Repairs & Maintenance		Accountant Prof. & Tech.	\$1,000
Fire Repairs & Maintenance		Library ADA ²	\$1,400

1. Balance of 1998 Study 2. Balance of Library renovation project

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Fin. Com. Rec: Approve

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds as detailed below to pay for a prior year bill (pre 7/1/99), or take any other action related thereto.

<u>Department</u>	<u>Project/Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Planning Board	Community Newspaper Co	\$85.80

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Fin. Com. Rec: Approve

You are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof at the three public places in different parts of the Town not less than fourteen days before the holding of said meeting. Hereof fail not to make the due return of the meeting aforesaid.
Given under our hands this 6th day of March 2000.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Edward Burt

Edward Burt, Chairman

Michael Milanoski

Michael Milanoski

Alfred H. Sparling

Alfred H. Sparling

A True Copy, ATTEST:

Ronald L. Channexian

Posted in the Town Hall, Community House, and Post Office Lobby.

[Signature]

Constable

K:\TownMeetings00\STM4-11,2000.doc

Date

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Ronald L. Channexian
HOPEDALE TOWN CLERK

**HOPEDALE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
APRIL 11, 2000
MEMORIAL SCHOOL, ADIN STREET**

The inhabitants of the Town of Hopedale qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, met in the Multi-purpose Room of the Memorial School at 7:00 PM. At 7:25 PM the Honorable Francis J. Larkin, Town Moderator, called the Annual Town Meeting to order and declared a quorum present. The meeting was called under the authority of a Warrant dated April 4th, 2000 and March 28th for Special Town Meeting, plus a Town Meeting Warrant Addendum dated April 4th, 2000. On a motion made and duly seconded, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the call of the Meeting and the Return of Service, and to dispense with the reading of the separate articles of the Warrant.

Hopedale High School students Karl Hudson and Liz Mitchell opened the meeting with The Star Spangled Banner. They did an outstanding job and received much applause.

The Moderator asked for a moment of silence for Robert Pagnini, former High School principal who recently and suddenly passed away.

The Moderator also asked for a round of applause for the High School Basketball Team and Coach Tony Cordani. The team reached the state finals and received the honors and respect from the town that they deserve.

The Moderator asked for applause for Guy Glodis, our State Representative.

The Moderator asked for a motion for privileges of the floor to the following Town Officials who are non-residents:

Town Coordinator, Allan Klepper
Fire Chief, Scott Garland
Treasurer, Denise Murphy

Superintendent, Andrea Hallion
Police Chief, Eugene Costanza
K & Paige, Joyce Frank

Motion duly seconded and voted unanimously aye.

Motion made and duly seconded to suspend Town Meeting and move to Special Town Meeting.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Motion made to dispense with the reading of the Warrant for Special Town Meeting, duly seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Moderator introduced Gene Phillips, Finance Committee to move Article 1.

ARTICLE 1: I move to transfer \$106,597 from the following accounts to others so designated to adjust the fiscal year 2000 operating budget.

To Account	Amount	From Account	Amount
Library Books	\$1,917	COA Transportation	\$1,917
Legal Expenses	\$41,000	Snow & Ice	\$8,000
Legal Expenses		COA Transportation	\$1,083
Legal Expenses		Memorial Day	\$517
Legal Expenses		Short Term Interest	\$31,400
Personnel Committee	\$620	Short Term Interest	\$620
Workers' Compensation	\$10,110	School Department	\$10,110
Town Hall Maintenance	\$4,000	Rosenfeld Land Acquisition	\$4,000
Police Overtime	\$8,000	Police Salaries	\$8,000
Police Dispatch	\$2,900	Police Salaries	\$2,900
Town Detail	\$1,000	Short Term Interest	\$1,000
Electrical Inspector	\$1,000	Veterans' Services	\$1,000
Highway Repairs & Maint.	\$5,250	Highway Salaries	\$5,250
Water Hydrant Rental	\$6,300	Water Retained Earnings	\$6,300
Water Overtime	\$2,500	Water Retained Earnings	\$2,500
Fire Overtime	\$10,000	Short Term Interest	\$10,000
Fire Dept. Part-time Salary	\$9,000	Fire Station Floor Study	\$2,350
Fire Dept. Part-time Salary		Rosenfeld Land Acquisition	\$250
Fire Dept. Part-time Salary		Treasurer Prof. & Tech.	\$1,400
Fire Dept. Part-time Salary		Short Term Interest	\$5,000
Fire Repairs & Maintenance	\$3,000	Treasurer Prof. & Tech.	\$600
Fire Repairs & Maintenance		Accountant Prof. & Tech.	\$1,000
Fire Repairs & Maintenance		Short Term Interest	\$1,400

Motion made, duly seconded and passed unanimously by voice vote. A 9/10 vote was needed.

Moderator introduced Thad Reid of the Finance Committee to move Article 2.

ARTICLE 2: I move to transfer 85.80 from the Planning Board to pay for a prior year bill (pre 7/1/99).

<i>Department</i>	<i>Project/Account</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Planning Board</i>	<i>Community Newspaper Co</i>	<i>\$85.80</i>

Motion duly made and seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

A motion to dissolve Special Town Meeting, and reconvene the Annual Town meeting was made and seconded and duly passed by unanimous voice vote.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

ARTICLE 1: Ed Burt, Chairman of the Board of Selectman, moved to hear and act upon the report of the Selectmen and other offices, departments, or committees.

Motion duly made and seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Chairman Burt made the following points in his presentation for the Board of Selectman:

- ...reached tax levy goals
- ...town employees...compensation plan
- ...new High School
- ...sewer expansion project
- ...town hall repairs

- ...new ambulance
- ...commend call firefighters
- ...5-yr. Goal was to maintain services with little to no manpower growth for a small town, we have all the services of a big town – from independent school system to leaf pickup.
- ...2 police officers approved in prior years and recently hired
- ...full-time firefighter/emt added to day shift
- ...budget includes additional person in highway dept.
- ...School Dept. – growth fully funded by State Chapter 70.
- ...Town savings account – Stabilization account, over \$1.6 million which keeps our savings account in line with balances and future usage targets.
- ...May election will decide between a town managed structure or civil service structure for your Police and Fire departments.
- ...Draper Mill is key place for town growth and a site in dire need of attention. However it is privately held, town is limited, but we recommend joining the Central Mass. Economic Development Authority. This agency is designed to help redevelop sites exactly like the Mill. The owner of the Mill is on board with this joint effort, including sharing appropriate cost.
- ...The last goal of the Board of Selectman is to improve communications with residents. The most visible and significant accomplishments were the pre-mailing of the Warrant for this Town Meeting and the use of Cable 8 TV for “What’s on the Warrant?”.

Chairman Burt recognized the following people for their efforts, accomplishments and years of service to Hopedale:

Personnel Committee: Meg McElroy, Chris Madden, Diana Hayes, Harry Murphy
 By-Law Review Committee: Bernie Stock, Aldo Cipriano, Christine Burke,
 Richard Mank, Zeke Hammond, Ken Andre, Allan Klepper, Ronda Ohannesian
 Bo Noyes – for his 30+ years of service with the Road Commissioners
 Al Sparling – 30 years of services with the Finance Committee and the Board Of Selectman

ARTICLE 2: Ed Burt, Selectman moved pursuant to GLc.41, §1B to change the position of Tree Warden from an elected position with a term of three years to a position, to be annually appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

Motion duly seconded.

From the voters...After Leo Lyons asked for an explanation, Ed Burt gave one. Finance Committee Chair Don Comastra gave the Finance Committee’s unfavorable recommendation. Bob Moro as a voter, gave his opinion of why he was not in favor.

Motion defeated by voice vote declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 3: Christine Burke, Water & Sewer Commissioner, moved pursuant to GLc.41, §§1B and 21, to change the Water and Sewer Commissioners from elected positions with staggered terms of three years to appointed positions with staggered terms of three years, to be annually appointed by the Board of Selectmen, and further to allow the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court as may be necessary for special legislation to accomplish the same.

Motion duly seconded, and after discussion was defeated by voice vote as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 4: Al Sparling moved, pursuant to GLc.41, §108 to fix the annual salary and compensation for each elected Town officer for his/her service in fiscal year 2001, as follows:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Total Compensation for Position(s)</u>
Town Moderator (1)	\$200
Board of Selectmen (3)	\$2,700
Town Clerk (1)*	\$21,012
Road Commissioners (3)	\$1,400
Board of Health (3)	\$1,400
Park Commissioners (3)	\$800
Water/Sewer Commissioners (3)	\$1,400
Tree Warden (1)	\$600

** Town Clerk is paid weekly; all others twice per year.*

Motion duly seconded.

Bob Moro offered his opinion that the above should have their stipends Raised.

Al Sparling added the \$35,014 to increase the stipends.

Bob Moro moved to amend the motion to the increased stipends. Seconded.

Al Sparling again reviewed the amounts.

Kopelman & Paige attorney Joyce Frank read the new numbers under The amended motion.

Mary Cockroft, School Committee chair, asked to have the School Committee Amounts remain the same.

Amended motion defeated by voice vote.

Main motion unanimously passed by voice vote as declared by Moderator.

ARTICLE 5: Christine Burke moved to raise and appropriate through assessments provided under GLc. 83, §16, and collected under GLc.44, §53E, bond issue payments of \$98,089 for the Sewer Department.

Motion duly seconded. Vote taken and “the ayes have it” as declared by Moderator.

ARTICLE 6: Elaine Malloy of the Library moved to raise and appropriate \$15,000 for the preparation of the nomination process for a Hopedale Historic District to be placed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Note:: Funds will be subject to 60% reimbursable state grant with a net cost to Town of \$6,000.

Motion duly seconded. Elaine read prepared speech. Merrily Sparling , Historical Commission was ill and couldn't attend.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote as declared by Moderator.

ARTICLE 7: To fund the budget accounts under this article totaling \$13,777,573 Don Comastra moved to raise and appropriate \$12,957,378, appropriate from the Water fund \$387,751; from the Sewer fund \$362,576; and from the Ambulance fund \$69,868.

Motion duly seconded and after a line by line budget call out, voted, as declared by the Moderator, the Ayes have it.

ARTICLE 8: Don Comastra moved to raise and appropriate \$30,400 for the Reserve Fund.

Motion duly seconded and the Ayes have it as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 9: Don Comastra moved to raise and appropriate \$69,900. for the Stabilization Fund as provided under GLc.40, §5B.

Motion duly seconded and voted, the Ayes have it unanimously as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 10: Don Comastra moved, as a member Town of the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District, to raise and appropriate \$753 as our proportionate share based on the operation ratio for FY2001, for an 11,000 pound diesel dump truck equipped for plowing and for transporting equipment to sites for approved member town projects, at a total anticipated vehicle cost of \$45,000.

Motion duly seconded and voted, the Ayes have it as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 11: Selectman Al Sparling moved to authorize the Board of Selectmen to lease-purchase an ambulance over a period exceeding three years (four), at a total cost, including financing, not to exceed \$100,000, (with estimated annual payments of \$25,000), to be funded from ambulance service revenues (a Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account under GLc.40, §5F) or, if insufficient, from general revenues.

Motion duly seconded and after a brief explanation the motion carried as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 12: David Pantano, Chair of the School Building Committee, moved to amend the April 8th, 1997 Town Meeting vote that authorized the renovation, expansion and furnishing of the Hopedale Junior/Senior High School by increasing the total allocation for the project from \$13,250,000 to \$15,250,000.

Motion duly seconded, and after a brief explanation a vote was taken and passed unanimously as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 13: Joanne Monique Chair of the Board of Health moved to authorize the continued use of a revolving fund pursuant to GLc.44, §53E½ for the purpose of funding a hazardous waste collection day and recycling program to include composting and yard waste and other related costs, which fund shall be credited with receipts from the Board of Health to be expended under the authority of the Board of Health, such expenditure not to exceed \$10,000 for fiscal year 2001 from said revolving fund.

Motion duly seconded and passed, the Ayes have it as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 14: Joanne Monique moved to authorize the continued use of a revolving fund pursuant to GLc.44, §53E½ for the purpose of funding the operating costs of the animal control division of the Hopedale Board of Health, which fund will be credited with receipts for the boarding of stray animals, fines for violations, and the licensing of animals, to be expended under the authority of the Board of Health, such expenditures not to exceed \$10,000 for fiscal year 2001.

Motion duly seconded and after a voice vote, the Moderator declared the Ayes have it.

ARTICLE 15: Selectman Ed Burt moved to authorize the Conservation Commission to spend without further appropriation in accordance with GLc. 131, §40 certain sums as received in filing fees from prior fiscal years, for the fiscal year 2001.

Motion duly seconded and after a voice vote, the Moderator declared the Ayes have it.

ARTICLE 16: Selectman Ed Burt moved to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell at public or private sale, for such price as they consider equitable, and upon such terms and conditions as they deem necessary, parcels of vacant land presently under the control of the Board of Selectmen and not required for any municipal purposes. The total area of land sold to any one person shall not exceed two acres. A record of all sales giving the names and addresses of the purchasers, the area and location of the land sold and the price sold therefore shall be kept by the Selectmen and shall be available for public inspection at all reasonable times. Authority therefore to expire June 30, 2001.

Motion duly seconded, and after a voice vote, a 2/3 vote passed the Motion as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 17: Selectman Ed Burt moved to authorize the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of Chapter 90 State reimbursement funds for the purpose of providing road paving/improvement projects.

Motion duly seconded and passed as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 18: Selectman Ed Burt moved to authorize the borrowing of the \$376,000, originally appropriated at the Special Town Meeting held on June 29, 1998, for the design and preparation of sewer system extension plans for the Freedom Street and South Hopedale areas, and that in connection therewith, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is hereby authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to the provisions of GLc. 44, §7(22), or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.

Motion duly seconded and after an explanation by Ed Burt and Don Comastra a vote was taken and declared unanimous by the Moderator. Note: A 2/3 vote was required for passage.

ARTICLE 19: Gene Phillips, Finance Committee moved to amend the Hopedale Zoning Bylaws by adopting the following zoning change:
Change zoning map from Light Industrial (LI) to Residential B (RB) that area roughly bounded by and setback 300' from Greene Street, Dana Park Road, Mill Street, and Plain Street, by 500' setback from South Main Street, by a portion of the center line of South Main Street and by the Milford-Hopedale Town Line as shown on a map on file with the Planning Board.
2/3rd vote required

Motion duly seconded.

Bob Moro spoke and voiced his opinion on why we should say “no”.

Allan Klepper, Town Coordinator explained that Planning Board twice conducted the required Hearings for this information and recommended approval.
After hearing from other residents, it was plain that the voters wanted the Planning Board to put a Check on the building in Hopedale.

A vote was taken and the standing count was no: 29 and yes: 65. The motion carried by the Vote necessary as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 20: Office Victor Best moved to amend the article passed at the November 9th, 1999 Special Town Meeting that resulted in petitioning the legislature to enact House Bill 4933:
“SECTION 1. Section two of chapter two hundred and sixty-two of the acts of nineteen hundred and eighty-four is hereby repealed. SECTION 2. The positions of regular or permanent members of the police force, including intermittent reserve officers and regular or permanent members of the fire department of the town of Hopedale, shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 31 of the General Laws and the tenure of any incumbent thereof shall be unlimited, subject to the provisions of said chapter 31.”, by adding the following: **“, the civil service law, and which would further provide that, notwithstanding Mass. G.L.c.31, §56, ¶1 or any general or special law to the contrary, public safety personnel hired during the six month period preceding enactment of such special legislation shall be included as civil service employees under said Chapter 31, subject to any applicable probationary period.”**

Motion duly seconded.

Officer Richard Mank gave an explanation, and Chairman Ed Burt added the endorsement of the Selectman

A vote was taken and passed, with the ayes having it as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 21: Selectman Mike Milanoski, Selectman moved pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 1995 to join the Central Mass Economic Development Authority (CMEDA), and to raise and appropriate (\$.50 per capita) \$3,000 for annual operational assessments.
2/3rd vote required

Motion duly seconded and passed unanimously as declared by the Moderator.

A Motion was made, duly seconded and passed to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting at 9:15 PM.

TOWN OF HOPEDALE – SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Tuesday, June 27th, 2000 at 7:00 o'clock in the evening
in the Memorial School Multi-purpose Room

Worcester SS: To Constables in the Town of Hopedale in the County of Worcester.

Greetings: In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hopedale qualified to vote in town affairs to meet in the Memorial School Multi-purpose Room on Tuesday, April 11th, 2000, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to transfer sums of money from certain accounts to others to adjust the fiscal year 2000 operating budget, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: Potential sources and uses of funds are listed. Final details to be determined.

<u>To Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>From Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Police Supplies	\$3,000	Police Salaries	\$3,000
Hwy Dept Overtime	\$1,000	Hwy Dept Salaries	\$1,000
Veterans Benefits	\$105	Streetlights	\$105
Medicare	\$6,200	Unemployment	\$5,500
		Streetlights	\$700
Workers Comp.	\$30,000	Short Term Interest	\$7,800
		Trash Removal	\$10,000
		Ambulance Salaries	\$2,400
		Hwy Dept Salaries	\$9,000
		Coordinator Salaries	\$800

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Fin. Com. Rec: Approve

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds as detailed below to pay for a prior year bill (pre 7/1/99), or take any other action related thereto.

<u>To Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>From Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Plumbing Inspector	\$710	Streetlights	\$710

Commentary: School Building Expansion Project inspection services occur over time and are not usually billed until project completion; hence the delay in timing of the bills. 9/10 vote reqd.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Fin. Com. Rec: Approve

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to GLc.41, §108 to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$16,464 to adjust the annual salary, stipend or compensation for all elected/appointed Town positions listed below for service in fiscal year 2001, or take any other action related thereto.

<u>Agency or Position</u>	<u>Membership Num. Mem./Chair</u>	<u>Current Annual Member/Chair</u>	<u>Proposed Annual Member/Chair</u>
Board of Selectmen	2/1	\$850 \$1,000	\$2,000 \$2,500
Board of Assessors	2/1	\$1,132 \$1,336	\$1,250 \$1,600
Board of Health	2/1	\$450 \$500	\$550 \$750
Board of Registrars	2/1	\$434 \$434	\$500 \$600
Clerk to Registrars	1	\$434	\$500
Parks Commissioners	2/1	\$250 \$300	\$500 \$600
Planning Board	4/1	\$450 \$500	\$700 \$900
Highway Commission	2/1	\$450 \$500	\$700 \$800
Tree Warden	1	\$600	\$1,000
Water/Sewer Comm.	2/1	\$450 \$500	\$500 \$600

Zoning Bd of Appeals	4/1	\$0	\$0	\$250	\$300
School Committee	4/1	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,500
Finance Committee	8/1	\$0	\$0	\$100	\$150

Commentary: This topic was broached at the April Town Meeting and tabled for lack of details and advanced notification – it had not been included in the mailed warrant. These increases are a follow-on to municipal employee adjustments approved at the April Town Meeting and were recommended after survey of surrounding communities. Separate motions will be presented for the two groups: \$8,714 to fund those that already receive stipends and \$7,750 to fund those who would receive them for the first time.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Fin Com Rec: Disapprove

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of GLc.59, §5K as they apply to the Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Credit Program, and further to modify the FY01 approved budget by transferring \$12,500 from the Elderly Tax Program to Overlay 2001 account, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: Adopting this new state law will simplify the process for participants and reposition department accounts for appropriate funding under the law: no net budget change.

Submitted by: Town Treas., Town Acct. & COA Dir.

Fin Com Rec: Approve

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of GLc.41, §38A by redesignating the position of Tax Collector as Town Collector, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: Adopting this state law will allow the restructuring of Town Office operations to enable all billing/collections for property taxes, excise taxes, water and sewer use charges and sewer assessments to be processed under the aegis of the Collector's office.

Submitted by: Selectmen and Water & Sewer Commission

Fin Com Rec: Approve

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of GLc.60, §2 concerning collection and abatement of taxes, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: Adopting this state law will allow the Tax (Town) Collector to avoid the expense and effort to pursue taxes owed if the amount is less than \$10.00.

Submitted by: Selectmen and Treasurer/Collector

Fin Com Rec: Approve

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, pursuant to Town Bylaw, Chapter V – Contracts, to dispose of surplus Town property, whose value exceeds \$500, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: This authority is required in order to dispose of surplus wood from the recent Library rehabilitation project that is valued at greater than \$500.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Fin Com Rec: Approve

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into leases with cellphone carriers for the installation of antennae atop along with necessary support equipment at the base of the town water tank located off Steel Road, such leases to exceed three years, for such revenues, and under such terms and conditions as the Selectmen deem appropriate for the best interests of the Town, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: The Selectmen in cooperation with the Water and Sewer Commission are in the process of licensing the first of a potential three antennae installations. For such long-term agreements, it is more appropriate to employ a "lease" than a "license" format. The initial license (that would be converted to a lease upon the vote of the STM) will result in revenues of over \$24,000 per year. Town Counsel endorses this request for the stated leasing authority.

Submitted by: Selectmen and Water & Sewer Commission

Fin Com Rec: Approve

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$3,000 for preliminary site surveys and conceptual plans preparatory to the development of additional recreational playfields on Town-owned land located between Freedom Street and Prospect Street, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: The Park Commission and School Dept. are working together to evaluate this site for much-needed additional recreational facilities for the community. The effort will establish a phased plan for future development and provide a basis for potential grants.

Submitted by: Park Commission Fin Com Rec: Approve

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Mass GLc.44, §53E½ to authorize the use of a revolving fund for the purpose of funding Cable Access programming and to accumulate unappropriated funds for future equipment acquisitions, programming support and other authorized uses, which fund shall be credited with receipts from cable franchise fee payments to be expended under the authority and direction of the Board of Selectmen; such expenditures not to exceed \$37,185; or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: Under the new franchise agreement, the Town has received the fee from MediaOne and will provide funds to Hopedale Cable Access, Inc. to support budgeted programming and equipment purchases as required. Receipts are sufficient to fund FY2001 activities.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen and Accountant Fin. Com. Re: Approve

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of monies out of the Stabilization Fund as provided under GLc.40, §5B, including \$7,500 to fund a facility study of the Town Hall, or take any other action related thereto.

Commentary: The facility study was inadvertently left out of the April Town Meeting Warrant. It will provide the basis for renovation/upgrade planning. Additional monies will fund previous articles, as required.

Submitted by: Finance Committee Fin Com Rec: Approve

You are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof at the three public places in different parts of the Town not less than fourteen days before the holding of said meeting. Hereof fail not to make the due return of the meeting aforesaid.
Given under our hands this 5th day of June 2000.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



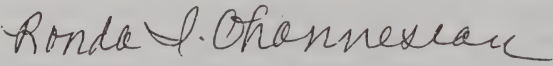
Edward Burt, Chairman



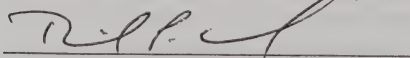
Michael Milanoski



Michael Collins

A True Copy, ATTEST: 

Posted in the Town Hall, Community House, and Post Office Lobby.



Constable

K:\TownMeetings00\STM6-27,2000.doc

June 5, 2000

Date

**TOWN OF HOPEDALE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WORCESTER, SS.
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 27, 2000**

The inhabitants of the Town of Hopedale, qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, met in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Memorial School at 7:00 PM. At 7:35 PM Moderator Francis J. Larkin called the meeting to order and declared a quorum (50) present. The meeting was called under the authority of a Warrant dated June 5, 2000.

The Moderator began reading the Warrant, and upon **motion made and seconded and duly voted**, dispensed with further reading of the Warrant and proceeded as follows:

ARTICLE 1: Don Comastra, Chairman of the Finance Committee, moved to transfer \$36,094.50 from certain accounts to others to adjust the fiscal year 2000 operating budget.

<u>To Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>From Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Police Supplies	\$3,000.00	Police Salaries	\$3,000.00
Cemetery Groundskeeping	\$70.00	Cemetery Salaries	\$70.00
Parking Clerk	\$150.00	Planning Board Salaries	\$525.00
Zoning Board	\$35.00	Highway Salaries	\$10,500.00
Plumbing Inspector	\$340.00	Elder Tax Credits	\$5,000.00
Highway Overtime	\$2,000.00	Unemployment Insurance	\$7,000.00
Workers Compensation	\$30,000.00	Liability Insurance	\$10,000.00
Medicare	\$500.00		

Motion duly seconded and passed by unanimous vote as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 2: Don Comastra moved to transfer \$710 from Streetlights to the Plumbing Inspector's account to pay for a prior year bill (pre 7/1/99).

9/10th vote required

Motion duly seconded as passed, "the ayes have it" as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 3: Mike Milanoski, Selectman, moved to consider this article in two parts.

Motion duly seconded and passed by unanimous vote as declared by the Moderator.

Selectman Mike Milanoski moved pursuant to GLc.41, §108 to transfer \$7,314 from the Stabilization Fund to adjust the annual salary, stipend or compensation for all elected/appointed Town positions listed below for service in fiscal year 2001.

2/3rd vote reqd

<u>Agency or Position</u>	<u>Membership Num. Mem./Chair</u>	<u>Current Annual Member/Chair</u>	<u>Proposed Annual Member/Chair</u>
Board of Selectmen	2/1	\$850 \$1,000	\$2,000 \$2,500

Board of Assessors	2/1	\$1,132	\$1,336	\$1,250	\$1,600
Board of Health	2/1	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$750
Board of Registrars	2/1	\$434	\$434	\$500	\$600
Clerk to Registrars	1	\$434		\$500	
Parks Commissioners	2/1	\$250	\$300	\$500	\$600
Highway Commission	2/1	\$450	\$500	\$700	\$800
Tree Warden	1	\$600		\$1,000	
Water/Sewer Comm.	2/1	\$450	\$500	\$500	\$600

Motion duly seconded and voted and declared unanimous by the

Moderator.

Mike Milanoski, Selectman, moved, pursuant to GLc.41, §108 to transfer \$11,450 from the Stabilization Fund to provide stipends for all elected/appointed Town positions listed below for service in fiscal year 2001. **2/3rd vote reqd**

Agency or Position	Membership Num. Mem./Chair	Current Annual Member/Chair		Proposed Annual Member/Chair	
Zoning Bd of Appeals	4/1	\$0	\$0	\$250	\$300
School Committee	4/1	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,500
Planning Board	4/1	\$0	\$0	\$700	\$900
Finance Committee	8/1	\$0	\$0	\$100	\$150

Motion duly seconded and voted and declared unanimous by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 4: Barbara Delphos of the Council on Aging moved that the Town accept the provisions of GLc.59, §5K as they apply to the Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Credit Program, and further to modify the FY01 approved budget by transferring \$12,500 from the Elderly Tax Program to Overlay 2001 account so that the program may be implemented in this fashion in FY01.

Motion duly seconded and after an explanation passed as declared by the Moderator, the ayes have it.

ARTICLE 5: Michael Collins, Selectman moved that the Town accept the provisions of GLc.41, §38A by redesignating the position of Tax Collector as Town Collector.

Motion duly seconded and voted unanimously as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 6: Michael Collins, Selectman moved that the Town accept the provisions of GLc.60, §2 concerning collection and abatement of taxes.

Motion duly seconded and voted as declared by the Moderator, the ayes have it.

ARTICLE 7: Michael Collins moved to authorize the Selectmen, pursuant to Town Bylaw, Chapter V – Contracts, to dispose of surplus Town property, whose value exceeds \$500.

Motion duly seconded and voted as declared by the Moderator, the ayes have it.

ARTICLE 8: Mike Milanoski, Selectman moved to authorize the Selectmen to enter into leases with cellphone carriers for the installation of antennae atop the town water tank located off Steel Road, along with necessary support equipment at the base of the tank, such leases to exceed three years, for such revenues, and under such terms and conditions and for such term of years as the Selectmen deem appropriate for the best interests of the Town and to further authorize the Selectmen to grant such non-exclusive easements to utility companies as the Selectmen deem appropriate under such leases to provide telephone and electric service to the lessees installations.

Motion duly seconded.

After minimal discussion and explanation from the Town Coordinator the vote was taken.

Voted, the ayes have it all but one as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 9: Rick Espanet, Chairman of the Parks Commission moved to transfer \$3,000 from stabilization for preliminary site surveys and conceptual plans preparatory to the development of additional recreational playfields on Town-owned land located between Freedom Street and Prospect Street.

Motion duly seconded and voted, ayes have it as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 10: Mike Milanoski, Selectman, moved to establish a revolving fund under Mass GLc.44, §53E½ for the purpose of funding Cable Access programming and to accumulate unappropriated funds for future equipment acquisitions, programming support and other authorized uses, which fund shall be credited with receipts from cable franchise fee payments to be expended under the authority and direction of the Board of Selectmen; such expenditures not to exceed \$37,185.

Motion duly seconded and voted, the ayes have it as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 11: Don Comastra, Chairman of the Finance Committee moved to transfer \$7,500 from the Stabilization Fund as provided under GLc.40, §5B, to fund a facility study of the Town Hall.
2/3 vote required.

Motion duly seconded and voted, the ayes have it as declared by the Moderator.

Motion is made and duly seconded and voted unanimously to dissolve the Warrant. Warrant dissolved at 8:09 PM.

**BOARD OF REGISTRARS
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 1999 – JUNE 30, 2000**

To the Residents of Hopedale:

I hereby submit the fiscal year Annual Report for the Board of Registrars.

The Board consists of:

**Chair – Dottie Milanoski
Jayne Moynihan
Bernie Stock
Ronda Ohannesian**

Dottie Milanoski was reappointed in March for a 3-year term.

The Board has had another busy year:

**November and December Special Town Meetings
March Presidential Primary
Annual April Town Meeting
May Town Election
June Special Town Meeting**


The Board spent a morning in March at the High School to register the 18-year old voters. It's always exciting for them and us.

The Hopedale Resident Listing was again printed and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. They quickly sold out so this next year we will increase the number printed. The cost increase still doesn't cover printing costs, however we will keep it at \$5.00/residents;\$10.00/non-residents.

Our Election Workers did a splendid job, particularly on the Presidential Primary, always a confusing election for the voters.

We continue to encourage residents to participate in the business of running Hopedale. We would particularly like to increase the number of voters at every election and town meeting.

We continue to support Hopedale voters in every way possible.


**Ronda Ohannesian
Town Clerk, Ex-Officio Member**



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

78 Hopedale Street - P.O. Box 7
Hopedale, Massachusetts 01747

Tel: 508-634-2203 Fax: 508-634-2200
E-mail: hope_coord@tp.net

Board of Selectmen
Edward J. Burt, Chm
Michael A. Milanoski
Michael E. Collins

Town Coordinator
Allan C. Klepper

Annual Town Report - Board of Selectmen

With the passage of the FY 2001 budget at the April Town Meeting, we are pleased to announce that Hopedale is on a path to complete all the goals established in the 5-year plan a full year ahead of schedule. As a result, our bond rating was upgraded again as the Treasurer successfully completed the Town's \$15.25 million bond sale.

Taxpayers and Town Employees were the main focuses of the FY01 budget. Operating expenses were established based upon last year's tax levy. In other words, no increases are planned for next year's property taxes. The FY01 plan also completed the implementation of the Personnel Study. Job classification and compensation ranges were established, and funded. The goal of the Personnel Study was to provide our Department Managers with the ability to attract and retain the best employees to provide our Town's services. Selectmen are actively negotiating with the Public Safety Unions to complete the objectives of the Personnel Study.

This year's Capital Planning process included funds for improvements to the Fire Station, the Statue of Hope and for a new Recycling Center and Ambulance. Expect to see activity with these projects throughout the summer and fall.

In other matters, a municipal agreement was finally signed between Mendon and Hopedale: ensuring that the water extension was limited only to the contaminated homes defined by the original state-approved project. Despite unanimous positions by our elected boards and department heads against civil service, the vote of the November Special Town meeting and subsequent non-binding ballot question resulted in a favorable action for civil service. These votes overturned the 1998 Annual Town meeting vote and established our Public Safety departments under the State's Civil Service laws.

From a people perspective, Al Sparling 'retired' upon the conclusion of his Selectman's term after over 25 years of service including multiple terms on the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen. Additional volunteers have stepped forward to help establish a web site committee; to continue the work of the bylaw committee; and to expand the call fire department. As a result of the May election, we welcomed Michael Collins to your Board of Selectmen.

On behalf of the citizens of Hopedale, we would like to thank the Town employees, department heads, elected and appointed boards for all their efforts. Much has been accomplished over the past few years but there is still a lot to do. We thank you for your support and encourage you to get involved.

Respectfully submitted,


Edward J. Burt, Chm.


Michael A. Milanoski
HOPEDALE BOARD OF SELECTMEN


Michael E. Collins



Ronda Ohannesian
Town Clerk

Office of
TOWN CLERK

P.O. Box 7
Hopedale, Massachusetts 01747

Tel.: 508-634-2211
Fax: 508-634-2200

TO THE RESIDENTS OF HOPEDALE:

As we close the fiscal year 2000, the office of the Town Clerk is pleased to report one more year of successful interaction with the public, the state and the officials and boards of Hopedale.

As the office that keeps the records for the town, we have enlisted help from Laura Manning and Tootsie Deletti. They volunteered their time to completely reorganize the files, toss old materials, and generally make finding things easier. I thank them for their community spirit.

We continue to learn more about the Voter Registration Information Service Computer system, paid for by the state. All voter records are on this system, and your Town Clerk continues to learn the processes involved.

There were three Special Town Meetings and one Town Meeting this fiscal year. We continue to look for ways to increase attendance. Our meetings were held in the Memorial School due to construction on the high school.

As your Town Clerk, I attended three Town Clerk conferences. The annual in June in Falmouth, the fall in October in the Berkshires and the winter in February in Westboro. It is at these conferences that I obtain all information vital to running the Town Clerk's office. Laws change so quickly that it is imperative to attend classes being offered. Additionally, networking with Town Clerks from all over Massachusetts allows me access to much information, and I do utilize the expertise of these Town Clerks.

The Statistics for the calendar year for vitals are as follows:

Births – 72: Deaths – 67: Marriages – 19

I continue to applaud the success of the Senior Citizen Tax Credit Program, and particularly the following ladies who put in their 100 hours in the Town Clerk's office, then continued to volunteer their time as needed:

Jenny Fertitta, Claire Turner and Cynthia Zacchilli

I offer thanks to all the above volunteers, Allan Klepper and the Selectman and all the Boards and Committees who offer answers to many questions that flow through this office.

The Town Clerk's office hours continue to be Monday through Thursday, 9 – 2; Monday evening 6 – 8; Friday – Closed. Appointments can always be made to complete business at any other time.

In entering the third year of my 3-year term and my first Presidential Election, I look forward to continuing the learning process in this very busy and ever-changing office.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronda I." followed by a stylized monogram.

**Ronda I. Ohannesian
Town clerk**

LEONARD KOPELMAN
DONALD G. PAIGE
ELIZABETH A. LANE
JOYCE FRANK
JOHN W. GIORGIO
BARBARA J. SAINT ANDRE
JOEL B. BARD
EVERETT J. MARDER
JOSEPH L. TEHAN, JR.
ANNE-MARIE M. HYLAND
THERESA M. DOWDY
DEBORAH A. ELIASON
RICHARD BOWEN
DAVID J. DONESKI

EDWARD M. REILLY
DIRECTOR WESTERN OFFICE

WILLIAM HEWIG III
JEANNE S. MCKNIGHT
JUDITH C. CUTLER

KOPELMAN AND PAIGE, P. C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

31 ST. JAMES AVENUE

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116-4102

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PITTSFIELD OFFICE

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NORTHAMPTON OFFICE

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WORCESTER OFFICE

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THOMAS P. LANE, JR.
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MARK R. REICH
MARY L. GIORGIO
KATHLEEN E. CONNOLLY
CHRISTOPHER J. GROLL
DARREN R. KLEIN
THOMAS W. MCENANEY
JONATHAN M. SILVERSTEIN
KATHARINE I. GOREE
LAUREN F. GOLDBERG
GREGG J. CORBO
AMANDA ZURETTI
DANIEL C. HILL
VICKI S. MARSH
BRIAN E. GLENNON, II
JONATHAN D. EICHMAN

July 19, 2000

BY FACSIMILE -- (508) 634-2200

JUL 20

Hon. Edward J. Burt and
Members of the Board of Selectmen
Hopedale Town Hall
P.O. Box 7
Hopedale, MA 01747

Re: Annual Report of Town Counsel and Confidential Litigation Status Report

Dear Members of the Board of Selectmen:

Enclosed is the Annual Report of Town Counsel for the past fiscal year, which I have also FAXed to the Town Coordinator's office for publication. Also enclosed is a confidential report of outstanding pending matters.

I hope the list of pending matters is of use to you and I would, of course, be happy to address any of the cases in more detail at your convenience. While it is not possible to anticipate new cases which might be filed against the Town in 2000, a look at the past year and pending matters may be helpful in providing the Board with a useful overview to assist in future planning.

Very truly yours,



Joyce Frank

JF/lem

Enc.

cc: Town Coordinator (By Facsimile-508-634-2200)

105060/HOPE/0001

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ANNUAL REPORT OF TOWN COUNSEL

The past fiscal year was an active year in which Town Counsel rendered numerous legal opinions, approved contracts and guided transactions, met with the Board of Selectmen and various other Boards, and handled a number of law suits on the Town's behalf.

Town Counsel continues to represent the Town in various ongoing litigation matters in state district and superior court and administrative tribunals. There are presently eleven litigation matters involving the Town and Town boards.

We have been successful in assisting the Town to resolve pending litigation appealing the Board of Selectmen's order that the owner of two dogs kennel the dogs behind their home to abate a nuisance created by the dogs' excessive barking. We filed suit to recover expenses associated with design issues at the Memorial School. We assisted the Board of Selectmen to conduct a license revocation hearing as to a pizza parlor whose owners have been charged with various violations on the premises. We are representing the Town before the Labor Relations Commission and with respect to a number of issues involving police dispatchers.

We have reviewed the owner-contractor agreement between the Town and Seaver Construction, Inc. for the Junior-Senior High School additions and renovations project, together with the performance and payment bonds and certificate of insurance submitted by Seaver Construction. We have also advised the Town with respect to a Construction Management Agreement with Municipal Building Consultants, Inc.

We have defended the Town against bid protests for elevator work at the Bankcroft Memorial Library. We have also worked with the Town to develop leases for telecommunications installations on a Town water tank, prepared deed and acceptance of deed documents for property acquired from Rosenfeld Concrete Corp. as a land gift, and have represented the Town with respect to cable license renewal agreements. We have advised the Town as to access and right of way issues involving Overdale Parkway and Blackbrook Subdivision and assisted the Planning Board to address a number of subdivision questions.

Town Counsel has continued to take a pro-active approach to keeping control of costs by sending out numerous memoranda on various areas of municipal law at no charge to the community. For example, we have informed the Town of important federal telecommunications cases, recent developments in the Designer Selection Law, recent changes in the Conflict of Interest Law, and cases affecting public records disclosure. In addition, we have provided guidelines as to the form of home rule petitions and sample warrant articles for acquisition and disposition of real estate. We have issued bulletins on application of prevailing wage payment rules, provided the procedure for abating taxes when municipalities acquire land by gift or purchase and summarized the procedure for the creation and discontinuance of public ways.

As always, we strive to provide timely and concise responses to requests for advisory opinions and have assisted in the review of articles for the Warrants for Town Meetings as well as attending Town Meetings and various Board meetings.

We wish to express our thanks to all the people who have dedicated themselves to town government in Walpole, and especially the Board of Selectmen, Town Coordinator, and department heads. Without their assistance and cooperation, our collective objectives could not be attained.

Respectfully submitted,

Kopelman and Paige, P.C.

**CONFIDENTIAL - LITIGATION MATERIAL
NOT A PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TOWN OF HOPEDALE
LEGAL STATUS REPORT
MATTERS PENDING WITH TOWN COUNSEL
KOPELMAN AND PAIGE, P.C.
(revised 7-18-00)

LITIGATION

1. Barrett v. Town
Worcester Superior Court C.A. No. 96-1288C

This is a complaint alleging handicap discrimination under Mass. G.L. c.151B based upon the Town's inability/failure to provide plaintiff full-time employment as a Water Department foreman after he suffered a paralyzing motor vehicle accident which rendered him a quadriplegic. We have engaged in discovery and prepared a motion for summary judgment, which was not accepted by the Court. We are working with the Town's insurer to address whether settlement possibilities should be explored once more before beginning trial preparation. Previously, in the MCAD litigation which preceded this action, the plaintiff demanded attorney fees along with \$180,000 plus medical costs incurred when the Town no longer provided health insurance.

2. Gardner v. Hopedale
Worcester Superior Court C.A. No. 99-0574B

A police lieutenant filed a lawsuit seeking overtime and compensatory time. We have propounded discovery and may need to file a motion to compel discovery. After we have deposed the Plaintiff, we will be evaluating whether to file a motion for summary judgment. Furthermore, the parties have also engaged in settlement discussions and we are waiting for plaintiff's counsel to get back in touch regarding the Plaintiff's settlement demand.

3. Metcalf v. Sparling
Milford District Court, C.A. No. 93-66-HR -0357

Plaintiff filed an application for a criminal complaint against Selectmen, the Police Chief and several police officers alleging illegal recording/wiretapping pursuant to G.L. c. 272, §99. At the criminal complaint hearing, the case was referred to a conciliator/master agreeable to the parties. The parties have been unable to agree on a master. In the meanwhile, the Complainant's request for issuance of a Complaint has laid dormant. This case is a criminal case that is inactive. Because it is inactive, it cannot be closed.

4. Rozak v. Board of Selectmen
Milford District Court, C.A. No. 98-66CV100

This is an appeal of the Board of Selectmen's order requiring Plaintiffs to kennel their two dogs behind their home to abate a nuisance created by the dogs' excessive barking. The Clerk-Magistrate affirmed the Board's decision, which Plaintiff appealed. An agreement for judgment was entered into with the Plaintiff and Plaintiff has complied with the agreement. The matter may, therefore, be closed.

5. Sales, et al. v. Haynes, et al.
Worcester Superior Court, C.A. No. 95-01462

This is an appeal by an abutter of a grant of a comprehensive permit for 16 residential units on Boyd Road. We are monitoring the case as the grantee of the permit is the real party in interest. On October 27, 1995, Defendant's Motion to Require Plaintiffs to Post a Bond was allowed. We have since responded to Plaintiffs' request for production of documents. We are currently not taking an active role but continue to monitor the case. The case was rescheduled for trial in November 1999, but, according to the Court, did not go forward and the case is still listed as open.

6. Waybourn, Loraine, et al. v. Joseph Menfi, et al.
Land Court Misc. Case No. 171-620

This is an appeal by an abutter challenging the developer's failure to comply with zoning and conditions of subdivision approval. We are monitoring the case as the developer is the real party in interest.

7. Plausse v. Mank
U.S. District Court, D. Mass. C.A. No. 98-1048MCW

This is an action filed against a police officer in connection with a chase and arrest of the plaintiff. The matter is being defended by insurance counsel with no reservation of rights.

8. Town v. Alderman & Macneish
Worcester Superior Court, C.A. No. 99-0099B

Project architects have not responded to our demand letter, which sought to recover expenses associated with a variety of design defects at the Memorial School project, and therefore, we have filed suit on behalf of the Town. We have responded to the defendant's written discovery requests, and we have propounded interrogatories and requests for production of documents to the defendant. The Defendant has filed a motion for summary judgment and we are presently preparing our opposition.

9. T. Bedrosian, LLC, et al. v. Costanza, et al.
Worcester Superior Court, C.A. No. 98-1519C

This is an action by a developer against the Sewer and Water Commission and Town alleging that the Commissioners granted and then rescinded permission to connect his subdivision in the neighboring town of Mendon to Hopedale water. The Complaint seeks injunctive relief compelling the connection, damages, and treble damages with attorneys' fees under M.G.L. c.93A. The matter is being defended by insurance counsel. Trial is set for October 30, 2000.

10. Blackbrook Realty Corp. v. Hopedale Planning Board:
Land Court Misc. No. 258300

This is an appeal from a decision of the Planning Board denying an endorsement of an ANR plan filed by John J. Burns. An answer to the complaint has been filed in the Land Court. The property in question is the same property later approved as Blackbrook Subdivision. The case is presently dormant pending disposition of the challenge of that subdivision in the Coleman case, below, and would only become active if the subdivision grant were to be overturned in the Coleman appeal.

11. Coleman v. Town of Hopedale Planning Board:
Land Court Misc. No. 263637

Abutters to a proposed subdivision are appealing an approval of a definitive subdivision plan for Blackbrook Subdivision by the Planning Board. An answer was filed on behalf of the Town on May 2, 2000. We have propounded interrogatories to the extent that the complaint contained allegations of malice and bad faith on the part of the Planning Board. Otherwise the subdivision grant is being defended by the grantee of the subdivision as the real party in interest, who has filed a motion to dismiss in this and a related action against the Mendon Planning Board.



OFFICE OF BOARD OF ASSESSORS

74 HOPEDALE STREET
HOPEDALE, MA 01747
TEL. (508) 634-2201

BOARD OF ASSESSORS FY2000 ANNUAL REPORT

During Fiscal Year 2000, the Board and staff members continued gathering data from the various "classes" of residential properties within the Town of Hopedale as part of the cyclical inspection program mandated by the Department of Revenue.

Fiscal 2000 was a certification year for the Town of Hopedale by the Department of Revenue. We were successful in obtaining this certification by adjusting land and/or building values to satisfy the D.O.R.'s requirements.

Sale prices continue to rise, and, at this point in time, it appears as though there will have to be another increase in values in order to keep assessed values within 10% of the market value. Present indications are that values will increase from 10% to 15% for most styles and 20% to 30% for certain condominium units.

We lost our Administrative Assistant (Gail Wellman) to the town of Mendon. She has been replaced by the very capable Theresa Volpe.

We continue to take advantage of the educational programs offered by the various international, state, and county assessors organizations, and we use this knowledge to produce the fairest and most equitable assessed values possible.

The new software package from Patriot Properties has been installed, along with a new Motor Vehicle package and both are working out just fine.

We wish to thank the Board of Selectmen, the Town Coordinator, the Town Accountant, the Town Clerk, the Treasurer/Collector, as well as all the Department of Revenue staff for all the cooperation and assistance freely given during the past fiscal year.

Lisa M. Alberto, Chair

Richard L. Volpe, Assessor

Robert A. Carbone, Assessor

HOPEDALE COUNCIL ON AGING
43 HOPE STREET
HOPEDALE, MA 01747
(508) 634-2208

Annual Report

July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000

The mission of the Council on Aging is to identify the needs of our older citizens. We work to ensure their needs are met by providing opportunities for education, recreation and access to resources. The Council acts as a unified body, advocating issues important to older people.

The Council on Aging board faced a major challenge this year. Because of several resignations of long-term volunteers, we needed to attract more individuals to serve as board members. The process was slow. But, we were fortunate to find four (4) new energetic members. I am so grateful for their time and energy.

Our mainstay service, transportation of elders, is experiencing its highest number of participants since the program's inception. The Council on Aging provides transportation services to over sixty-three (63) unduplicated individuals with no other means of transport. While transportation is primarily for medical appointments, we have added personal services transportation for hairdressing appointments and expanded the window of transit. Seniors who no longer drive find themselves facing a host of problems ranging from feelings of low self-esteem to feelings of forced dependency. We will continue to search for ways to minimize their loss.

Another vital program which is also experiencing increased enrollment is the "Meals on Wheels Program. At points during the year, we were delivering more than twenty (20) meals. This is a result of an aging population as well as better communication about the home health services available to seniors.

The Council on Aging through the Senior Center located in the Community House, continues to provide Hopedale Seniors with a wide array of cultural, social and educational activities. We attempt to provide programs that inform seniors on current vital legal and medical topics. We have also established ongoing programs and strong relationships with the Fire and Police departments.

Our monthly newsletter, "The Hopedale Informer" continues to be our most important communication tool. We have worked to expand its scope and added contributing writers. The newsletter is mailed to over 525 households.

In an effort to keep seniors connected to the young people in our community, we continue to hold intergenerational programs i.e. Tea on the Terrace and the Christmas and Spring Concerts. The Bright Beginnings Center, The Memorial School Boys and Girls Ensemble and the High School provide senior citizens with annual events that are eagerly anticipated. In addition, we will continue to work with the Hopedale High School on an oral history project of the town of Hopedale and the Draper era.

I want to thank all the Council on Aging Board members for their support throughout the year. And a special thank you to all our wonderful volunteers. We eagerly welcome anyone who has a desire to volunteer his or her services.

The current Council on Aging Board Members Are:

Chairwoman	Mary Challela
Vice Chairman	Zeke Hammond
Secretary	Barbara Delphos
Treasurer	Annemarie Kontoff

Members

Liz Bartolet
Joan Bradbury
Claudette Hughes

Respectfully Submitted,



Carole Mullen
Director



Office of
BOARD OF HEALTH
Hopedale, Massachusetts 01747
(508) 634-2202

**BOARD OF HEALTH
ANNUAL REPORT**

The Board of Health has enjoyed a busy and productive year. In the fall we held our well attended Drive through Flu Clinic in back of the Town Hall. In April, for all Blackstone Valley Residents in Whitinsville we held a collection day to recoil CRT's. We were able to do this due to a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In May we had our 3rd annual spring clean up day and latex disposal program. The Rabies Clinic was also held in May.

This past year the Board of Health enacted Regulations restricting Tobacco products on school grounds and regulations for the removal and disposal of Canine Waste. The Board also enacted Tobacco by-laws for the Town of Hopedale: no smoking at food establishments and no smoking in all public buildings.

The Board of Health received several grants: Massachusetts Recycling Program, The Sun Safe Program, a REAPS (Recycling Education Assistance program for Public Schools) grant and a grant for the recycling flyers mailed to Hopedale residents.

The Board of Health also received an award from The Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the town's recycling. We recycle 94%.

The Board Health is in the process of relocating the recycling center to a secure facility.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Monique
Elizabeth Sales
Peter Mitchell

Leonard A. Izzo
Agent

ANNUAL REPORT
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

Your local Veterans Agent is committed to assist our needy veterans and their dependents, with the same concern and compassion that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office and the Massachusetts House and Senate had when aid and assistance from our veterans was first created in the Commonwealth. From an early start, many reforms and changes have been made to improve the delivery of services. Today, with the continued support of the Massachusetts Executive Office and the Massachusetts House and Senate, your Veterans' Agent is meeting the needs of our former service personnel.

Your Veterans' Agent administers to many varied entitlement programs and it is for this reason that your local Department of Veterans' Services is considered a one-stop center. In addition to the duties to aid, assist and advise, as stated in Chapter 115, Massachusetts General Law, your Veterans' Agent counsels, files claims, explores every avenue of resources and revenue available. The veteran or dependent of the veteran must be motivated to realize and be aware of their own assets. Where rehabilitation may be required, proper attention is given to that need, with all being done in a manner that treats the veteran or his dependent with dignity and courtesy. Our services to veterans and to their dependents is a record of which we are proud. Your Veterans' Agent will continue to meet his responsibility to the taxpayer of the Town with diligence, keeping in mind that monies received from other resources will reduce the financial responsibility to the Town.

My thanks to the Board of Selectmen for their understanding to the needs of veterans and for their continued support to insure that the Veterans' Service Department's justifiable monetary benefits are met. The Department of Veterans' Services and the Town will continue to fulfill the needs of those who served.

The Department of Veterans' Services will continue to provide service to our Veterans and their dependents, being aware of the fact that our services have constantly increased. It is, therefore, necessary to emphasize the quality of services and continue with our best effort to maintain an efficient and economical Veterans Assistance Program.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony J. Mastroianni,
Veterans' Agent

The Bancroft Memorial Library
Hopedale, Massachusetts 01747
(508) 634-2209

ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

DAYS OPEN	241		
HOURS OF OPERATION	28 hours/wk September- June 24 hours/wk July- August		
REGISTRATIONS	Adult	Juvenile	Total
NEW BORROWERS			
Hopedale	103	78	181
Out of Town	20	1	21
LIBRARY VISITORS	8,117	5,750	13,867
REFERENCE QUESTIONS ANSWERED	1,399	797	2,196
ACQUISITIONS			
Total Volumes July 1999	22,273	7,052	29,325
Volumes Added	851	514	1,365
Volumes Withdrawn	488	113	601
Total Volumes July 2000	22,636	7,453	30,089
Newspapers Received	2	0	2
Periodicals Received	62	8	70
CIRCULATION			
Fiction	5,342	7,357	12,699
Non-Fiction	1,065	2,417	3,482
Non-Print	1,519	440	1,959
Totals	7,926	10,214	18,140

REPORT

There was a change in the Board of Trustees, this year. After ten years, David Williams did not seek another term. The library department appreciates his tireless efforts and wishes him well. Edward L. Spillers was elected to fill the position. On a unanimous vote, Frederick G. Oldfield III was again appointed as Chairman. Roger J. Edwards remains Vice-Chairman, and Edward Spillers became the Recording Secretary. Staffing includes: Elaine Malloy, Library Director; Elaine Krammer, Children's Librarian; Anne Mattie, Senior Library Assistant; Dot Stanas and Wendy Sullivan, Circulation; Katharine Verdolino, Page; and Walter Manczurowsky, Custodian.

Renovations at the library to bring the facility into compliance with ADA regulations continued this year with the installation of a new stairway and limited access elevator. Work started on July 1, 1999, and ended in early December. This project, phased in over several years, is now completed. It began with the construction of an accessible entrance and walkway, and then an accessible restroom with a new hallway. The final product is one of which the town can be proud, for the library is now able to serve everyone.

Funding is now in place to refurbish the Statue of Hope Fountain. The project will cost approximately \$75,000. Representative Marie Parente and Senator Guy Glodis secured funding from the state in the amount of \$40,000, to be dispersed through the Massachusetts Historical Commission. To support this cause, the Friends of the Library raised \$8,714.52, the town appropriated \$14,000 at a town meeting in November, and the Hopedale Foundation will assist with \$13,000. Conservator Louise Freedman, of L.H. Freedman Studios, will team with Ivan Myjer of Building and Monument Conservation in Arlington, and Carol Snow and Nina Vinogradskaya of Art Conservation Associates in Weston to restore the piece. Work will commence on August 1, 2000, and will be completed by the end of October. Susan Preston Draper, when she presented the statue in 1904, charged the town with its care and maintenance. It's gratifying to see that long-ago commitment being honored.

On December 14, 1899, Joseph Bancroft wrote a letter, turning the library over to the Town of Hopedale. The library has the original document, as well as the response of the Town Committee in accepting it. A reenactment was held on December 14, 1999. Engraved invitations, programs, and brochures were printed by the graphic arts department at the Blackstone Valley Vocational School. One hundred twenty-one guests helped the library celebrate this historic event. Roger Edwards acted as Master of Ceremonies, Fred Oldfield extended words of welcome, Reverend Richard Drinon of the Unitarian Parish offered a blessing, and Elaine Malloy gave a brief history of the library. Jim Verdolino portrayed Joseph Bancroft, and the Board of Selectmen (Ed Burt, Al Sparling, and Mike Milanoski) acted as the Town Committee. Jim Verdolino read Bancroft's letter, and Al Sparling read the response of the Town Committee. Chairman Ed Burt presented the library with a plaque, proclaiming the day as Bancroft Library Centennial Day in Hopedale. Representative Parente also presented citations from the House and Governor Cellucci, and Senator Glodis had one from the Senate. Honored guests included Representative Parente, Senator Glodis, Judge Francis Larkin, Reverend Raymond Goodwin, Reverend Richard Drinon, Reverend Christopher Dodge, and former trustees Anita Drisko, Barbara Allen, June Hanam, Marcia Sweet, and Jim Kenney. Also in attendance was Suellen Deiana, former director. Elaine Malloy painted ornaments of the library, which were distributed as favors. Following the ceremonies, refreshments were served. All agreed it was a delightful evening.

The Book Review and Discussion Group, a popular activity for many years, disbanded in the fall. It is hoped that it will be reactivated later this year. Another adult activity was a Christmas Concert. Co-sponsored by the library and the Unitarian Parish, it was held at

the church. The Waylers, an acappella group, entertained a large gathering. The Christmas Tea for Senior Citizens, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, was again a tremendous success, with over one hundred-ten attending. Fred Oldfield represented the Board. Tree ornaments, made by Elaine Malloy were distributed to each guest. Helpers included Friends, library staff, Peg Allen, and Lenore Doucette. The library thanks all the bakers and anyone else who helped. The Friends also provided passes to the EcoTarium, Plimoth Plantation, the Children's Museum (Providence), and the Botanical Garden in Boylston. In May, the Friends also conducted a successful Book and Bake Sale. The library thanks Beth Fox and June Hanam for coordinating the Bake Sale. Additionally, the Friends sponsored monthly children's programs: October, Halloween Storytime with Dorothy Suszanska; November, Life in 1627 Plimoth Colony; December, Mrs. Santa Claus; January, Magic with Steve Rudolph; February, Dan Cripps- Native American Experience; and March, Purple Rock Puppets- Rumpelstiltskin. In December, Don Stewardson again portrayed Santa, and in February, Elaine Malloy conducted a valentine craft class. Further activities for children included a busy summer reading program- **Funny Things Happen When You Read**. Over one hundred enrolled. Summer programs included Home Alone-Child Safety; Amazing Science; Safety First- Water, Fire, Bicycle; Around the World with Kizzy the Clown; Magic/Comedy of Jeff Danger; Make Your Own Sundae; Picnic/Song Fest with Jackie Burberry; and Story Crafts- With a Deep Sea Smile, Winter in July, and Peanut Day.

The Hopedale Foundation, as always, is a great friend to the library. They again supplied the popular passes to the Boston Museum of Science and the Boston Aquarium. Additionally, they provided generous donations to the Friends and library. With funds to the library, a historic document, signed by President Andrew Johnson, commissioning William F. Draper as a Brevet General, is being restored. There will also be enough left to begin restoration of some of the portraits that hang in the library. A number of old pictures were also found in the library cellar. Glass was replaced with plexiglass, and new mattings were inserted. These have been hung throughout the library and are generating a lot of interest. The library is still a popular place to conduct community business. Daisy Scouts, Girl Scout leaders, the Hopedale Historical Commission, and the Baseball Commission utilized the facility for all their meetings. The library director attended several workshops this past year. On June 11, she was guest speaker at the dedication of the Peace Garden at the Unitarian Parish. She also secured two grants, one from the Department of Environmental Management, and one from the John Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. The Department of Environmental Management grant is for garden restoration, in the amount of \$12,000. This will be accomplished next spring. The other award is for \$1,100 and will be used for a bronze plaque. Mounted on a piece of stone from the Unitarian Church renovations, it will depict the history of the Statue of Hope Fountain and the bluestone walkways. Park benches will also be purchased for visitors to pause and reflect on the illustrious background of the library landscape.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Malloy, Library Director



Annual Town Report

Hopedale Cemetery Committee

The Hopedale Cemetery Committee, for the year July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001, was duly sworn in by Town Clerk Rhonda Ohannesian on July 25, 2000. The committee consists of the same members as the previous year:

Mrs. Roberta Simmons, Chairperson
Mr. Don Ellmore, Clerk
Mr. Howard Thayer, Member

In reviewing the goals that were stated in last years Annual Town Report, the following has been accomplished:

1. Regular maintenance of the cemetery grounds.
2. Improved physical appearance.
3. Established new burial site fees.
4. Trash containers now provided for visitors use in disposing of plastic pots & flowers.
5. A comprehensive set of Rules & Regulations for the public, in the proper use of the cemetery, has been established.

The following Goals for the coming year are as follows:

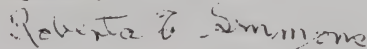
1. Renovation/Repair of the stone walls at the rear and side of the cemetery.
2. Purchase and installation of new chain/gate at 3 entrances to the cemetery.
3. On going maintenance and favorable appearance of the cemetery.

We will continue in our efforts to improve and protect this Historic Site in our Town.

This committee wishes to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to Hopedale Town Coordinator Mr. Allan Klepper for his active participation, invaluable consul, and guidance.

Note: A copy of the above mentioned "Burial Site Fees" and " Rules & Regulations" of the Cemetery may be obtained at the Town of Hopedale General Offices.

Respectfully Submitted,



Roberta F. Simmons, Chairperson

Hopedale Cultural Council

Annual Report for 1999-2000

The Massachusetts Cultural Council allocated \$3300 for local aid to the arts, humanities, and interpretative sciences. The local council received nineteen grant applications and awarded the following:

Hopedale Cultural Council (Day in the Park festival)	\$825
Davis Bates and Roger Tincknell (storytellers)	\$200
Greater Milford Ballet	\$400
John Root (storyteller)	\$300
Greater Milford Artists' Guild	\$75
Hopedale HS Friends of Music (PASS grant)	\$550
Blackstone Valley Art Association	\$150
Hopedale Memorial School	\$300
Milford Performing Arts Center	\$400
Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild	\$100

The Cultural Council organized the Wednesday night summer band concerts. There were seven performances in the series; refreshments concessions were offered by local organizations.

The annual Day in the Park festival was held on Saturday, September 25, 1999 at the Town Park.

Live music and entertainment, adult and children's art shows, craft booths, historical tours, a road race, games, and food concessions provided fun for all ages.

A scholarship of \$250 was awarded to Sarah Vallaincourt, Hopedale High School, Class of 1999.

The council wishes to extend an invitation to members of the community who are interested in promoting our activities to join the council.

Respectfully submitted,
Wilma Manning, chairperson

August 1, 2000

Ann LaBrode, vice-chair
Susan Pagnini, secretary
Ann-Marie Lockwood, treasurer
Janet Ellis

Liz Lerner
Dorothy Suszanska
Laura Manning
Virginia Larkin



HOPEDALE HOUSING AUTHORITY

P.O. BOX 182
HOPEDALE, MA 01747
(508) 473-8120 • FAX (508) 473-4703



REPORT FOR THE HOPEDALE HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR 2000

The annual meeting of the Authority was held May 11, 2000 the following were elected or appointed to office:

Louis Trevani	Chairman	2001
Ellen Murphy	Vice Chairman	2003
Edith Francis	Treasurer	2005
Karen Villani	Asst. Treasurer	2005
Edward Malloy	Asst. Secretary	2004
Katherine E. Consigli	Executive Director and Secretary	
David T. Pagnini	Legal Counsel	

The Housing for Elderly, Project 667-C known as Griffin-Dennett Apartments, consist of eighty apartments and is managed according to the regulations set forth by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

The Authority meets on the second Thursday of each month and the annual meeting is held on the second Thursday in May. The Authority held twelve regular meetings.

The Authority , replaced the heating system, which was fuel oil to gas. A gas log was installed in the fireplace in the Recreation Hall for the use of the Tenants.

The Tenants Association is very active and they meet on a monthly basis.

There is a current waiting list and local residents are still given preference according to regulations.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katherine E. Consigli
Executive Director

Hopedale Park Commission

P.O. Box 7

Hopedale, Massachusetts 01747

Rick Espanet Chair, Mark Sesona, Harry Ohannesian

YEARLY REPORT, FY 2000

The Park Commission continues its charter to improve and maintain existing facilities at the Town Beach, Parklands, Town Park and Mellen Field recreation areas. Unless posted otherwise, Park Commission meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month, and twice monthly during the summer months.

In January, Jaime Dalton resigned her position on the Board to pursue job interests out of state. In May, voters elected Harry Ohannesian to serve the remaining two years of her term, and Mark Sesona was re-elected to a second three-year term. The Board named Rick Espanet to serve as Chairman for the coming year.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1999-2000

- ◆ October 2000 marks the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Adin Ballou statue. The Commission completed a much-needed refurbishment of this historical landmark, with plans to hold a re-dedication ceremony in the fall.
- ◆ After a very disappointing 1999 summer season, where the lack of qualified lifeguards prohibited us from opening the town beach for the first time ever, 2000 saw the Town Pond bounce back with a full, newly-energized program of swim lessons and waterfront activities. With thanks to the Finance Committee and Town Meeting voters, we were able to increase seasonal salaries to attract mature, capable, lifeguard personnel. In addition, the Board implemented a successful bonus program as an additional incentive to hire and maintain these individuals. While a very chilly and damp summer negatively impacted swimming attendance, we look forward to the challenge of building on the progress made this year.
- ◆ The Summer Recreational Program at the Town Park also went through a revitalization this year. Correne Proctor from Uxbridge directed activities at both the pond and park, and her enthusiasm and hands-on approach were well received by staffers and townsfolk alike. New crafts and games were added at the park, and the summer field trip program was expanded to include old favorites like the Douglas Water Slides, Pawtucket Red Sox, and Crystal Falls Mini Golf; to new ones such as the Franklin Park Zoo, Battleship Cove, the popular Boston Duck Tours, and Six Flags. A year-end Family Fun Day with food, games and activities was also held. Tennis lessons were also offered at the Park this season and were well-received.
- ◆ Thanks to the generosity of the Hopedale Foundation, the Park Commission was also able to upgrade playground equipment and amenities at the Town Park. Gone are the old iron monkey bars and jungle jim; in are a "rock" climber with slide, a tire swing, and three kiddie spring rides. Also, we listened to the feedback of residents and added a number of benches and picnic tables to the playground area. Continued upgrades of all our facilities will continue as funding becomes available.
- ◆ The Mellen Field Recreational area continues to be utilized heavily by the Hopedale Girls Softball program, and the Milford/Hopedale Youth Soccer Association (whose contractual agreement with the Board for usage rights in return for maintenance upkeep assistance remains in effect through 2003).

The field will also be home to Hopedale High School soccer program in the Fall of 2000, as games and practices were moved from privately-held land at the Draper Field.

- ◆ The Park Commission closely monitored the proceedings surrounding a proposed development off Overdale Parkway which would abut Parklands. Abutters and representatives from the development corporation met separately with the Commission to express their viewpoints on the project's potential infringement and impact on the Parklands. Through Town Administrator Klepper, the Commission requested, and received a ruling from Town Counsel to clarify what land in the affected area came under the stewardship of the Park Department. Once it was determined by Counsel that the property in question was town property but not Parkland; the Park Commission detached from further involvement in the matter. We did, however, attempt to broker an agreement between abutters and the developer to alleviate drainage problems on Old Salt Box Rd., the easement to which belongs jointly to the abutters and the Parklands.
- ◆ To kickoff a joint project with the School Department, the Park Commission received town funds in 2000 to begin exploring the possibilities of developing existing town lands for recreational use. If successful, this long-term project will afford school and town leagues a stable, expandable environment for years to come.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As always, the successful operation of this board would be impossible without the support of town employees, officials, and dozens of civic-minded individuals. We would like to express our sincerest thanks and appreciation to the following local merchants and individuals who have donated materials and/or labor to us over the past year:

Chet (Buster) Francis, **Varney's Sand and Gravel**, Bellingham; The Hopedale Foundation;
Bob Colcord; Jon Tosches; The McDermott family; Al Shimkus; Lucien Gagnon
Woodlawn Lawn Care; Milford Hopedale Youth Soccer Association;

Special thanks also to the entire Town Hall staff; Rhonda Ohannesian; Sharon Emerick; Allen Klepper; Health Agent, Lenny Izzo; Water Department foreman, Tim Watson & crew, Highway Foreman Bobby DePonte and crew, the HPD, HFD, and the good people of Hopedale for your continued feedback and continued support of our programs.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard P. Espanet, Chairman
7 September, 2000

Annual Report of the “Red Shop” Preservation Committee

The major effort of the committee in 1999 was to have the need for restoration recognized by the Capital Planning Committee and the Finance Committee. Meetings with both of those committees helped to gain recognition of the historic nature of the building and the need for much restoration.

The needs of other public buildings in town had to come first, especially when the other buildings housed offices and town employees. Strides in seeking restoration of the “little Red Shop” have been limited to protective action to prevent further damage to the exterior of the building. A tarp has been placed on the pond side of the building to prevent further water leakage from the windows and roof.

The building was opened to the public during the Day in the Park and was also opened by the Blackstone Valley Park Ranger for tours by school children.

The committee will continue to seek support from the town for the restoration of one of the oldest remaining buildings in Hopedale. The possibility of grant funds to support some restoration is possible if the nomination of sections of Hopedale as a National Register District is successful.

Respectfully submitted,
Merrily Sparling, Chair
William B. Gannett
Robert Brown

Annual Report of the Hopedale Historical Commission

Little more than one year ago, the members of the Commission began exploring the possibility of part of Hopedale being listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In December of 1999, a public hearing was held at the Bancroft Memorial Library to hear Philip Bergen of the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Mr. Bergen described what a Local Historic District and a National Register District means to the residents. The approximately fifty attendees were pleased to learn that the nomination of a specific area of Hopedale was an honorary designation. Fears of restrictions were removed by Mr. Bergen who explained that there were no restrictions on property owners. Many attendees were pleased to hear there really were no drawbacks to being nominated, in fact, some income producing properties actually found some tax advantages.

At the Annual Town Meeting in April, a unanimous vote approved the plan to move forward with the project. With the grant application completed, the members were pleased to learn in late April of the success of its grant application to the Massachusetts Historical Commission for a preservation consultant to complete the nomination papers for a National Register District within Hopedale.

Members moved forward with the development of a Request for Proposal, attendance at a grant workshop, and during the summer with receipt of RFPs from several preservation consultants. The year long project will be completed in three phases. The final phase will include the submission of the nomination to the State Review Board who will then send the application to the national board for approval.

Informing the public of the history of Hopedale has been the challenge for the members during 1999. During the summer, the members of the commission had several articles on the history of Hopedale written for the local newspaper. In November the front page of a Sunday *Worcester Telegram and Gazette* featured a lengthy article and color pictures of Hopedale describing the plans of the Historical Commission. The Commission members also participated in the 1999 Day in the Park activities by assisting the Friends of the Red Shop in staffing the Little Red Shop. A winter skating party was held on Hopedale Pond; attendees enjoyed hot chocolate and a warm fire in the Bath House on the shore of the Pond.

Joint meetings of the Historical Commission, the Red Shop Committee and the Historic Documents Committee have been held throughout the year due to the mutual interests in things historic and the need to know what the other committees are working on regarding the history of Hopedale. The joint meetings were held throughout the year at the Bancroft Memorial Library on the first Monday of each month with the exception of holidays.

Activities for the coming year will include historic tours of public buildings and viewing of the films from the Winajean Noyes film collection.

Respectfully submitted,

Merrily Sparling, Chair
Hopedale Historical Commission



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

P.O. BOX 7
78 HOPEDALE STREET
HOPEDALE, MA 01747

BUILDING DEPT.
TEL.: (508) 634-2206

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT

ZONING DEPT.
FAX (508) 634-2200

FISCAL YEAR 2000

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Hopedale, I hereby submit the report of the Building / Zoning Department for the fiscal year starting July 1, 1999 and ending June 30, 2000.

The Building /Zoning Department consists of: Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer, Michael Tusino (dept. head); Electrical Inspector, Albert Shimkus; Plumbing and Gas Inspector, John Balanca.

Being a part-time department poses a constant challenge to provide high-quality service to the public. This up and coming year will supply us with the same challenge considering the amount of residential and commercial construction that is already in progress.

The following is a breakdown of departmental activity:

Building Permits were issued as follows:

Single Family Dwellings	38	Residential Additions	20
Residential Renovations	22	Tenant Fit Up	0
Decks	15	Sheds	15
In Ground Pools	4	Above Ground Pools	9
Roofing	14	Wood Stoves	5
Garages	4	Signs	0
Certificate of Inspection	12	Zoning Permits	0
Commercial Buildings	1	Commercial Addit./Ren.	2

Total Building Permits: 161 Est.Cost of Construction: \$7,530,005 Permit Fees: \$46,465.92

Electrical Inspections Conducted: 118 Permit Fees: \$3,895.00

Plumbing Inspections Conducted: 115 Permit Fees: \$5,554.00

Gas Inspections Conducted: 90 Permit Fees: \$1,497.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael A. Tusino
Building Commissioner/
Zoning Enforcement Officer



OFFICE OF
Board of Road Commissioners

HOPEDALE, MASSACHUSETTS 01747

Report for FY00

Our major effort this year was the completion of over 700 feet of road reconstruction on Daniels Street, with new sidewalks on both sides for the full length. This was accomplished with the combined effort of the Milford Highway Dept. and financing by Chapter monies. Town Meeting funds allowed us to reconstruct the complete inner circle sidewalk of Bancroft Park and 20 feet of new sidewalk on Hammond Rd. across from Patrick Rd. at the new crosswalk area.

During the good weather, we were able to do a considerable amount of crack seal filling of roadways. We completed all of Pinecrest, Adin St., and Anthony Rd. Richard Rd. and Neckhill Rd. were also crack filled. The bridge decking on Thwing St. was rebuilt so that it now has a 12' width.

In cooperation with the Milford Highway Departments recommendation, on Feb. 28 we had to close the Mellen St. Bridge as a safety issue. This will be for an undetermined length of time.

We were able to jointly purchase with the Board of Health, a Woodsman wood chipper from town meeting approved funds.

While we were short on manpower this past winter, it fortunately turned out to be relatively mild one; however, we had numerous sanding operations.

The 1989 F250 Ford pick up was refurbished as well as the 1970 Bombardier sidewalk tractor. Our department continues to provide the welding, mechanical repair and basic service to our vehicles in order to keep cost down.

Our newest member is William Marquis, elected to his first full term on this Board. He had previously been appointed to fill the vacancy of retiring Merwin Noyes.

We would like to extend a thank you to the Town General Offices for their help and to all other departments for their support.

Respectfully submitted,

John Farrar, Chairman
Donald Fafard
William Marquis



POLICE DEPARTMENT
70 HOPEDALE STREET, P.O. Box 101
HOPEDALE, MASSACHUSETTS 01747-1241
TELEPHONE 508-634-2227
FAX 508-634-2228

CHIEF OF POLICE
EUGENE P. COSTANZA



FISCAL 2000 ANNUAL REPORT

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the residents of Hopedale, I hereby submit the Hopedale Police Department Annual Town Report.

Once again calls for service to the police department have increased compared to the stats of F.Y. 1999. However our crime rate has decreased by 20 percent. Our present manpower has done it's best to handle the influx of calls.

During the course of the year, we held several events such as, Bicycle Inspection and Registration, a Halloween Parade and Party for the children, a summer chicken barbecue for our seniors, a Visit with Santa for the children, the Seventh Annual Hopedale Police and Fireman's Ball, a Children I.D. Program, a field trip to a Pawtucket Red Sox game, sponsored by our D.A.R.E. Program. The Police Association and Police Union sponsored a little league team, and two girl's softball teams.

Officer Victor Best, the departments D.A.R.E. Officer continued the program with much success. The program was taught to the fifth and sixth grade, students. The state has informed us that the grant funds used to support the D.A.R.E. program may be decreased even further. If this is the case then the D.A.R.E. program in Hopedale will be affected because it is fully funded by grant funds.

The police department continued its philosophy of Community Policing and maintained the Officer on Bicycle Patrol unit. As a result of the Community Policing Grant offered by the state, we are able to have a Harley Davidson Police Motorcycle available for patrol. The residents have seen the officers on their bikes at various public events such as, band concerts, road races, parades, and at times on routine patrol in the area of the park, park lands, center of town and neighborhoods. This type of policing has given us a better way to interact with the residents and children in town. Once again I received a lot of positive feed back from the residents regarding this program, especially in the area of the town park. We were also able to run another Citizens Police Academy. This program was a huge success and our plan is to continue it as long as funding is available and there is an interest.

The police department applied for and received three grants during the year. We received two grants from the Executive Office of Public Safety. The first was for \$6,000.00 to continue our D.A.R.E. Program. The second was for \$16,000.00 to continue our community-policing program. The third was for \$1,500.00 from the State Police, (ByrneGrant) to assist us in performing drug investigations.

The police department pulled out of the Drug Task Force this year due to financial and managerial reasons. As chief I didn't feel the Town of Hopedale was getting enough bang for our buck. A majority of the investigations were being conducted in the bigger towns. I felt that I could better utilize the \$2,500.00 it cost to be a member of the task force by keeping the money for purposes of conducting our own investigations.

In January of this year Six year Veteran Officer Todd Boldy submitted his resignation. Todd accepted a position with the Franklin Police Department. Also, Officer Lisa Collins resigned as a full time police officer and took the position of a full time dispatcher. To replace these positions we hired Officer Andrew Saball and Officer Chad Chysna. Both officers were previously academy trained thus saving the town the cost of the academy.

We have applied for and received a \$125,000.00 Federal Grant in order to hire a police officer to be assigned specifically to the schools. This officer will work hand and hand with school personnel on a daily basis.

At a special town meeting in October Civil Service for Police and Fire Personnel was voted on and passed. This means our hiring

procedure now falls under the guidelines of the State Civil Service Commission.

I want to thank the residents, Town Boards and Departments for their support and assistance. I look forward to working in unison with all parties during my tenure as Chief of Police. I especially want to extend my thanks to the members of the Hopedale Police Department. These men and women are a dedicated, sincere, and a loyal group of individuals whom have shown their support for me and always give 110%.

My intent was, and will always be, to maintain the demeanor of the Hopedale Police Department personnel in order to continue being a people's police department. As Chief of Police, I feel we have achieved this goal, along with maintaining our professional image, and always remembering we are here to protect, to serve, and to interact with the public.

Respectfully Submitted,



Eugene P. Costanza Jr.
Chief of Police



HOPEDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

<u>TRAFFIC ACTIVITY</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>INCREASE / DECREASE</u>	
Total Number Of Accidents	138	135		2.17%
Total Number Of Accidents No Injuries	120	107		10.83%
Total Number Of Accidents With Injuries	17	28	64.7%	
Total Number Of Accidents Fatalities	1	0		
Hazardous Motor Vehicle Arrests (Not O.U.I.)	68	125	83.8%	
Operating Under The Influence Arrests	46	34		26.08%
Total Number Of Motor Vehicle Citations Issued	1888	1976	4.6%	
Total Number Of Civil Citations Issued	1134	1118		1.41%
Total Number Of Complaint Citations Issued	126	142	15.87%	
Total Number Of Warning Citations Issued	704	506		28.40%
Total Number Of Parking Citations Issued	288	210		27.08%
Total Number Of Abandoned Vehicles	13	7		46.15%
Total Number Of Towed Vehicles	160	96		40.0%
Total Number Of Stolen Vehicles	4	5	25.0%	

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Total Number Of Investigations	3501	3606	2.99%	
Total Number Of Arrests Felony / Adult	19	22	15.78%	
Total Number Of Arrests Felony / Juvenile	1	4	300.0%	
Total Number Of Arrests Misdemeanor / Adult	155	123		20.64%
Total Number Of Arrests Misdemeanor / Juvenile	13	8		38.46%
Total Number Of Arrest Warrants Served	42	56	54.76%	
Total Number Of Property Checks Made	1910	2310	20.94%	
Total Number Of Field Interviews / Adult	595	643	8.06%	
Total Number Of Field Interviews / Juvenile		23	23%	
Total Number Of Recovered Vehicles	8	3		62.5%
Total Number Of Recovered Bicycles	12	17	41.66%	
Total Number Of Stolen Bicycles	8	3		62.5%
Total Number Of Summons / 209A Served	302	124		58.94%
Total Number Of Drug Related Arrests	30	24		20.0%
Total Number Of Individuals Held In Protective Custody	38	41	7.89%	

ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL

Total Number Of Hours Spent On Dare	1632	1,710	4.77%	
Total Number Of Hours Spent On Community Service	597	1,167	95.47%	
Total Number Of Patrol Hours	5988	6,431	7.39%	
Total Number Of Selective Enforcement Hours	1412	2426	71.81%	
Total Number Of Outside Agency Assists	406	567	39.65%	
Total Number Of Training Hours	1811	2,162	19.38%	
Total Number Of Public Talks	252	287	13.88%	
Total Number Of Court Appearances (Criminal)	123	142	15.44%	
Total Number Of Court Appearances (Civil)	171	210	22.80%	
Total Number Of Administrative Investigations	3054	4,261	39.82%	
Total Number Of Calls For Service	34,409	34,415	.017%	

Hopedale Fire Department

Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2000

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

The Hopedale Fire Department hereby submits its Annual Report for the period of July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000. This report includes fire and emergency medical service (EMS) responses as well as the activities of the fire prevention office.

Emergency Responses

Our personnel were deeply moved by the tragic loss of the six firefighters from the City of Worcester on December 3, 1999. Local resident Timothy P. Jackson was one of the lost firefighters. With the tragedy has come recognition by the Commonwealth that many of the departments are without basic safety equipment. Budget cuts over the period of 1992 to 1998, primarily caused by the financial constraints imposed by the Education Reform Act, seriously impacted local emergency services, particularly the fire service since there are so few grants available to the local departments. Quite often, local fire departments rely on donations from individuals or corporations to supplement much of what should be part of the primary municipally approved budget.

Emergency responses for the year continued to drastically increase at a pace of 30% over fiscal year 1999. Property damage soared to over \$557,350.00 and resulted from twenty-two structure and five vehicle fires. For the first time in many years arson was the cause of several fires. Due to expert work of both local and state authorities the responsible parties for some of the arson work were found responsible. Still though, one civilian was killed, five civilians injured, and three firefighters hurt in the line of duty last year.

A fatal house fire occurred on March 17, 2000 at 56 Hill Street. The occupants of the home were overcome with smoke, being assisted from the residence by emergency responders. Damage of at least \$75,000 and mutual aid from three communities was needed to bring the blaze under control. A five alarm structure fire on July 14, 1999 destroyed the historic two family dwelling located at 56-58 Dutcher Street. This arson fire resulted in the injury of two firefighters and the loss of \$402,500 to the building of origin and the dwelling located at 11 Hopedale Street. Fire departments from nine communities responded to our calls for help. A structure fire on September 15, 1999 at 28 Dana Park partially destroyed a single family dwelling with damage estimated at well over \$50,000. The cause was improperly stored combustible materials and two area departments assisted us with extinguishing the blaze. Two other structure fires, one at 37-41 Dutcher Street and the other at 54 Dutcher Street occurred during September and October 1999. Both were in multi-family apartment buildings and both had the potential of being major incidents if not for the quick action of firefighters. The first, an arson fire, caused over \$5,000 in damages and was fortunate to be controlled by a sprinkler system

that the owner had installed after he purchased the building. The latter, an accidental blaze ignited in a second floor apartment, was contained by fire rated sheet rock construction. Damage to the building was estimated at \$10,000. In each of the above mentioned blazes officers of the Hopedale Police Department performed their duties to perfection in successfully evacuating occupants from serious danger of injury, entrapment, or death.

We were also summoned to three separate plane crashes at the Hopedale airport complex. Though no major injuries occurred, each of the incidents resulted in serious property damage to each of the planes as well as to private property. Local officials worked closely with representatives of the F.A.A. in investigating the cause of each crash.

Our Department was called to assist on the afternoon of August 3, 1999 at one of the largest conflagrations this state has ever experienced. The Fisherville Woolen Mill located in South Grafton was set on fire by arsonists and within six minutes of discovery the entire mill complex, over 500,000 square feet of heavy timber construction, was involved in a raging fire that created a life and death hazard for an entire village. Our Department was used to assist at eight fires caused by the initial blaze including fires on roofs, under cars, in dumpsters, back yards, and deep woods located over a mile from the source. The resultant fall-out of asbestos laden debris caused a prolonged clean-up operation that lasted two weeks after the fire with debris found as far away as Adin Street in Hopedale. Ongoing efforts to minimize a similar threat at the old 1.65 million square foot former Draper complex allowed us to make great headway with the owner in resolving several outstanding fire safety issues.

Another serious incident occurred when a trailer truck hauling 16,000 pounds of crushed glass rolled over on South Main Street striking two cars and closing the road for many hours during the clean-up. Fortunately, only a minor amount of diesel fuel was spilled during the incident and two minor injuries were realized. Tropical Storm Floyd visited us in the Fall of 1999 causing sixteen calls for hazardous conditions and related emergencies.

Emergency Responses

EMS responses: 530 (33% increase over FY1999)

Fire responses: 338 (27% increase over FY1999)

Total Responses 1999/2000 (July 1-June 30): 868 (30% increase over FY1999)

Fire Prevention Office

Permits issued: 373 (297 FY99)

Associated activities: 271 (303 FY99)

>includes investigation of complaints, violations issued, fire drills conducted, fire alarm tests, building inspections, building plan reviews, fire safety classes, etc.

Fees Collected and turned over to the Town Treasurer

Fire Prevention Office: \$ 4,145.00

Hazardous Materials Incident Reimbursements: \$ 768.46

Fire Incident Reimbursement: \$ 340.00

Fire Alarm Service Fee Collected: \$3,375.00

Ambulance transportation receipts: \$ 105,756.55

Total Fees Turned Over to the Town: \$ 114,385.01

Personnel

During the past year our staffing levels have increased dramatically. We have welcomed fifteen new Call Firefighters to the membership as well as a new Permanent Firefighter/EMT, William Davis of Northbridge. FF/EMT Davis has been assigned to the day shift and will handle our fire safety awareness program. Our current staffing levels are a full-time Chief, five Permanent Firefighter/EMT's, fifteen Call Firefighters, and nine Substitute Call Firefighters. Substitute Call Firefighters are new members, receiving training in preparation of promotion to the regular Call Firefighter staff and are unpaid volunteers. A total of eighteen personnel are certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's). Firefighter/EMT Thomas A. Daige, a thirty-five year veteran, retired from full-time duty on May 2, 2000. Tommy Sr., as he is affectionately known, was a favorite around the firehouse and we will surely miss his keen wit and knowledge of the fireground. He was duly recognized at a largely attended banquet in the Fall.

Repairs/Replacement of Equipment

Town meeting voters graciously approved the replacement of the main apparatus floor at the fire station as well as removal of asbestos and replacement of the front concrete apron. Construction is due to begin in the Fall of 2000. The command car was replaced with a new Ford Expedition in June 2000 and the new military surplus tanker truck was placed in service in April. The tanker has already given valuable service to the Town of Milford during a rash of arson related forest fires.

Phase II of the three phase fire alarm upgrade and repair project was approved and work began this past summer. During this phase alarm wire is being replaced throughout the central portion of the town as well as to many of the connections and old terminal boxes dating back to 1945 or so. Our upgrade of the system will allow the town to save monitoring fees associated with alarms located at the Red Shop and some of the schools. Our capital plan includes the replacement of Engine 2 (1968), Ladder 1 (1973), and Forestry 5 (1981) over the next few years. The plan also calls for replacement of twelve Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), many station improvements, as well as the purchase of a thermal imaging camera. During the past year we utilized the camera owned by the Milford Fire Department on five occasions. The Newton Group, owners of Draper Place Assisted Living Facility donated a new twenty space parking lot located adjacent to

the fire station. The lot is a compliment to the old firehouse and is used every day. The Newton Group had also provided us with new Motorola pocket pagers for alerting fire personnel.

Administrative Issues

The Fire Prevention Office consists of the inspection and permitting office as well as the S.A.F.E. program. The S.A.F.E. (Student Awareness of Fire Education) program has been complimented by our new coordinator, William Davis. Receipt of \$1,500.00 from a grant for public fire education was used to reach out to children of all ages as well as to elderly members of our community. We have an aggressive schedule planned for fiscal year 2001 to reach out to all school age children to teach them the dangers of fire as well as to discuss life safety skills and practices.

A training committee has been established and has produced very informative and interactive training including live fire practices conducted at an abandoned home in town. The life-like scenarios are practiced repetitiously and allow our newest members to experience the job under actual conditions. In addition, many members voluntarily participated in training courses held throughout the Commonwealth and sponsored by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy.

The inspection office conducted building inspections at all schools and many of the larger commercial and multi-family structures within our community. We utilize a system of working with property owners to resolve outstanding issues and aim to create a sense of community involvement with local businesses working in concert with local officials to make a safe working environment for employees as well as for emergency responders who may be called into the buildings under adverse conditions. Such is the case with the old Draper Complex that is currently undergoing a major demolition and clean-up project. In addition, our new high school has resulted in several hundred hours of inspection work by the Fire Chief as well as projects related to Adin Manor Nursing Home, Greene Mill Properties, Draper Place Assisted Living Facility, Wicke's Lumber Company, commercial properties located on Charles View Road, and Incase, Inc. on Mellen Street.

EMS Service

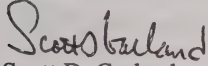
The new transport ambulance service has been far more successful than we could have realized. From our very first week when we were involved in the delivery of a new born baby to well over seven hundred emergency responses since, the demand for our service has resulted in our staff assisting citizens at a regular pace, aiding the sick and injured, and responding in a minutes notice. The townspeople acknowledged our hard work with approval for the purchase of a new ambulance that will be placed in service in December 2000. Members of our staff have been covering night and weekend shifts since the day that we began on January 11, 1999 and we continue to add more and more certified EMT's to the roster. Our hope is to continue to provide excellent pre-hospital basic level care while improving some of our aging equipment and upgrading our level of

certifications and training. Our outreach program for EMS awareness will be expanded to public CPR and choke saving courses offered in 2001.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of all the members of the Hopedale Fire Department we would like to take this opportunity to thank the various Boards, Commissions, and other town departments which we have worked with over the past year. The positive relationship between all departments is a true asset to the community. Most importantly, we wish to recognize and thank the citizens of Hopedale for their ongoing support and financial backing of our Department. Because you believed in us we were able to bring a successful transport ambulance service to the town.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott D. Garland
Fire Chief



Mark P. Bucchino
EMS Coordinator

Hopedale Fire Department Roster 1999/2000

Scott D. Garland, Fire Chief

(Vacant), Deputy Chief

Mark P. Bucchino, EMS Coordinator

Reverend Christopher Dodge, Chaplain

Permanent Firefighter/EMT's

Thomas A. Daige (retired 05/02/00)

Paul D. Barry

David J. McMorrow

Mark A. Carron

Thomas M. Daige

William R. Davis (appt'd 06/27/00)

Call Firefighter/EMT's

Engine Company #4

Robert M. Malnati, Captain/EMT

Keith E. Beckvold, Private/EMT

Todd R. Erickson, Private

Daniel H. Lopez, Private/EMT

*Anthony T. Stenton, Private

Mario Sousa, Substitute FF

Engine Company #3

Mark P. Bucchino, Lieutenant/EMT

Harold V. Murphy, Private/EMT

Donald K. Mailing, Private/EMT

**James P. Kaufman, Private

James Tweed, Private

Geoffrey Hooper, Private

Dawn MacLean, Substitute FF

Ladder Company #1

James S. MacLean, Captain/EMT

Christopher P. Biuso, Private/EMT

Vernon D. Gross, Private/EMT

Patrick Evans, Substitute FF

Mark Marcotte, Substitute FF

Paul Grindle, Substitute FF

Richard J. Gleason, Lieutenant

*Patrick T. Murphy, Private/EMT

Ryan T. Jenkins, Substitute FF

James C. Huth, Substitute FF/EMT

Michael Ciaramicoli, Substitute FF

Edward Laquidara, Substitute FF

*currently on a Leave of Absence

**resigned during the fiscal year



HOPEDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT

40 DUTCHER STREET
HOPEDALE, MA 01747
(508) 473-1050
FAX: (508) 634-1208

Scott D. Garland, Chief

DATE: 10 October 2000

SDG00-139

ATTENTION: Board of Selectmen
Town of Hopedale

SUBJECT: Local Emergency Management (Civil Defense) Annual Report.

This department, formerly known as Civil Defense, has the responsibility for ensuring that the Town of Hopedale is adequately prepared and equipped to handle natural or man-made disasters affecting our community. Our Comprehensive Emergency Plan is updated on a regular basis and changes are made when needed.

Y2K and a tropical storm last fall were our most significant events during FY2000. Storm damage resulted after the actual front had passed, caused by a significant void in the atmosphere, causing a windstorm twelve hours past the passing of the actual storm. Peaked wind gusts of 52 miles per hour wreaked havoc on weakened trees. Several telephone poles were knocked down, power lost, but no town equipment was damaged. Our newly obtained 400 gallon potable water wagon was in service if needed.

New Years eve passed without any financial impact on the town due to concerns for the Y2K situation. The greatest impact was the replacement of some personal computers within the town that were considered non-compliant, and of course the man hours spent preparing for the potential impact. In reality, Y2K forced many of us to take a second look at the vulnerability of computers and allowed us to focus on providing adequate back up safeguards.

The emergency shelter plan was reviewed and we are satisfied with the current plan to utilize Memorial School in an emergency. The two nursing homes have prearranged for emergency shelter at their own designated locations should the need arise. Radiological monitoring equipment was recertified as well as our supply of emergency shelter equipment improved.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott D. Garland

Local Emergency Manager/Fire Chief



HOPEDALE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

25 ADIN STREET

HOPEDALE, MA 01747

(508) 634-2220

David Pantano, Chair

Edward Burke

Edward Burt

Linda Caulkins

Grace Dorsey

Andrea Hallion

Jessica LeMarbre

Elizabeth Lerner

Debra Madden

Richard Martin

Howard Maurer

Justine Tonelli

2000 Annual Report to the School Committee

We began our 1999-2000 school year in what is best described as "transition". As planned, our phasing plan was in full swing with the C wing (1963 addition) turned over to the general contractor, Seaver Construction and the new construction area fenced off and walled off to students and staff. Our 7th graders began the school year in the 3rd floor of the 1929 building- the future home of the Superintendent. All in all, it was a nail biting fight to the finish but students began school on time in September

The year itself was somewhat uneventful. While construction workers demolished and constructed, students studied and learned as in any other year. Where feasible, teachers utilized the activities taking place behind the barriers to emphasize or illustrate a concept being taught. The students even developed a web site to chart the progress of this once in a lifetime event. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our teachers and administration, our building partners and especially our students for approaching and completing the school year with a sense of cooperation and flexibility.

In April, the town voted to increase the project scope by approximately \$2 million from \$13.2 million to \$15.2 million without any impact to taxpayers. This increase was made available by the capital planning process and the 71% reimbursement rate from the state. These funds are slated to improve areas we felt inadequate- specifically furniture & fixtures and technology.

As we looked forward to the summer months, we anticipated the tightest scheduling the entire project would encounter. The contractor is challenged with gutting and renovating the entire B wing (1954 addition) while completing the work on the C wing renovation and the new B addition. We are tracking progress on a weekly basis and will be communicating with parents as information warrants it.

What was once our architect's vision on paper is coming to life at the Junior Senior High School. Our school is taking shape and will be magnificent!

For the Building Committee,

David A. Pantano, Chair



BOARD OF
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HOPEDALE, MASS.
01747

Andrea Hallion
Superintendent of Schools

Tel (508) 634-2220
Fax (508) 478-1471

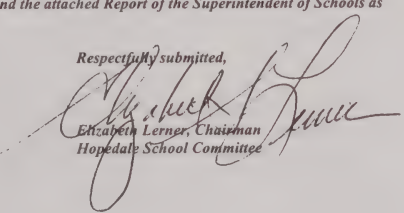
*One Hundred Fourteenth Commencement of Hopedale High School
June 3, 2000*

Jennifer Ann Aaron
Michael Robert Allen *
Nina Arcudi
Brian Louis Bacon
Adam Paul Bassignani
Alexander Michael Berger
Kevin Thomas Boyce
Brett Robert Boyd*
Thomas Wayne Bullers*
Michael Joseph Canniff
Carla Ann Caruso
Jason Yo-Ming Chan
Luke Wesley Chapman*
Alyssa Marie Chelotti
Ryan Wright Clare*
James Richard Colcord
Julie Anne Marie Collins
Thomas Steven D'Alio
Deborah Ann Deletti
Jonathan Michael DeMaria
Jessica Marie Denecke*
Pamela Rose Donnelly*
Jon Robert Dumont
Harris Kirk Dziok
Patrick Walker Evans
Philip Paul Gallo
Lisa Marie Gardner
Adam John Guglielmi
Evren Peter Gunduz*
Kara Lyn Hakesley
Jennifer Lynne Harris
Laura Jill Harvey*
Joseph Alfred Hickey
Karl Anthony Hudson
Lauren Frances Iacovelli
Ryan Taylor Jenkins
Robert Michael Jose
Paul John Kampersal

Marie Beth Kearsley
Kevin Richard Keller*
Jessica Ann Lavigne
Jill Patricia Leavey
Joel Matthew Leiby *
Benjamin Charles Lemon
Melissa Allyson Leone*
James Michael MacLean
Antoinette Marie Masnik
Amanda Erin Matsumoto*
Nicholas Yung Wook McCarthy Donovan
Danielle Catherine MacDonald
Julie Ann Morreale
Scott Andrew Morrell
Terence Michael O'Connor, Jr.
Cassandra Rose Parrott*
Jessica Lee Pasacane
Anthony Salvatore Paturzo
Krystina Josephine Pycko
Erica Julia Sesona*
Stephen Matthew Sinko
Dayna Lee Small
Mario Pinto Souza, Jr.
Ross Allan Spear
Wesley Evan Stafford
Jason Bernard Stock
Dominic Paul Suszanski*
Alisa Maria Tenenholz
Michael John Terasconi
Daniel Joseph Thiffault*
Jonathan Paul Tosches*
Michael Peter Tower
Crista Lynn Trongone
Meghan Ann Truitt
Jason David Watkins
Kevin Russell Webbon*
Sarah Louis Wickline*
Cynthia Marie Winters
Steven John Zuromski

The Hopedale School Committee hereby approves this and the attached Report of the Superintendent of Schools as the Annual Report of the School Committee.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth Lerner, Chairman
Hopedale School Committee



Andrea Hallion
Superintendent of Schools

Tel (508) 634-2220
Fax (508) 478-1471

HOPEDALE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

<i>Elizabeth Lerner, Chairman</i>	<i>Term Expires 2003</i>
<i>Earle Test, Vice Chair</i>	<i>Term Expires 2002</i>
<i>Edward Burke</i>	<i>Term Expires 2001</i>
<i>Mary Cockcroft</i>	<i>Term Expires 2003</i>
<i>Richard Martin</i>	<i>Term Expires 2001</i>

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elizabeth Lerner".

*Elizabeth Lerner, Chairman
Hopedale School Committee*



HOPEDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING
25 ADIN STREET
HOPEDALE, MASSACHUSETTS 01747

ANDREA M. HALLION
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

TEL (508) 634-2220
FAX (508) 478-1471

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS 1999-2000 School Year

Enhancing Our Buildings Is Key

The year has found us absorbed in the Junior-Senior High School building and renovation project. When the building is complete, Hopedale will have a state-of-the-art secondary school *and*, along with the recently completed Memorial Elementary School, will have both of its schools fully loaded with the technology our students will need to compete in the 21st century. The Park Street School received a partial facelift when we recently replaced the classroom windows and the flooring in the cafeteria. Maintaining the school buildings is the first step in providing quality education for our students. We are appreciative of the support that the town of Hopedale continues to provide our students. It is only through continued funding that we will be able to offer and create optimal learning facilities.

Strategic Plan Becomes a Reality

The Hopedale School Committee has adopted the newly developed Five Year Strategic Plan and accompanying Action Plan. A broad base of key stakeholders from both school and community participated in the process. A Steering Committee was formed to guide the planning process and to make all policy decisions related to the development of the Strategic Plan. During September and October of 1999, over 300 participants from school and community met in focus groups to consider four key questions:

1. What are the unique qualities of the Hopedale School System?
2. What areas of the Hopedale Public Schools need to be improved during the next 5 years?
3. What outcomes do you expect all Hopedale Public School students to achieve?
4. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the Hopedale Public Schools.....?

All responses from the focus groups were summarized. From the data we developed a *mission statement* and *major goals* for the next five years. Beyond the goals an action plan was developed that will serve as a blueprint as we continue to improve our schools.

The primary mission of the Hopedale Public Schools is to develop the intellectual potential of each student. We believe that every child can learn successfully. We are committed to developing a range of learning experiences and environments that will ensure this success. We want our young people to be happy and to be well prepared to meet their own needs and the needs of others as responsible members of society.

The five major goal areas that will shape the agenda for the Hopedale Public Schools over the next five years are: Ensuring Student Excellence; Creating A Learning Community; Attracting, Developing, and Retaining Quality and Dedicated Staff; Fostering Educational Innovation; and Improving the Physical Infrastructure.

All of our school and district plans which include the Strategic Plan and Action Plan, the Curriculum Plan, the Technology Plan, the Professional Development Plan, Memorial School Improvement Plan and Junior-Senior High School Improvement Plan have been assembled in a three ring binder and may be viewed in the school libraries, the Bancroft Library and the school offices. We are confident that our improvement plans will place us in the forefront of educational reform with innovative teaching methods and management systems.

Increased Chapter 70 Money Put to Good Use

The FY2000 state budget was not passed until the late fall of 1999 and our school was not informed of the increase in funding until the school year was well underway. But as soon as the Special Town Meeting appropriated the funds we put the money to good use. We increased the budgets for textbooks, library books, and professional development for our staff. We completed the window treatments and stage curtains at the Memorial School as well as enhancing the playground and drainage system. Additional technology was purchased for all schools. Technology Integration Teachers, a Director of Curriculum and Professional Development and a School Psychologist were hired.

MCAS Scores Improved

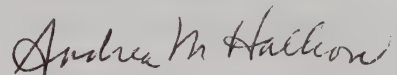
The Hopedale Junior-Senior High School tenth grade combined English, math and science scores were among the best performing districts cited in the Boston Globe, no student in the fourth grade failed the science test, and overall our district scores improved. We have identified areas of need both for individual students and as a school district. An intense two week summer session for middle school age students to improve skills in math and the language arts was offered and all students in the freshman class will participate in a *Fundamentals of Writing* course. Our improvement plans lay out new initiatives that will assist us in boosting student achievement in all areas.

The Blue Raiders Ride Again

Isn't it amazing that a small town like Hopedale continues to turn out fabulous sports teams? During the 1999-2000 school year our golf team, boys soccer team, field hockey team, baseball team and boys' basketball teams won the Dual Valley Conference League Championship. **And**, above and beyond anyone's wildest expectation, the Blue Raider varsity boys' basketball team also won the coveted Clark Tournament, the Central Massachusetts Championship and became State finalists. The boys displayed tremendous skill on the gym floor as well as a spirit and sportsmanlike attitude that is at the heart of what makes Hopedale great. All of our student athletes make us proud and are to be commended.

HOPEDALE: WHERE EVERY DECISION IS MADE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CHILDREN

Respectfully submitted,



Andrea M. Hallion
Superintendent of Schools

BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FY2000 ANNUAL REPORT

During the 1999-2000 fiscal year, the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District continued its positive momentum. Interaction with educators from across the nation confirm that the system's reputation as a model system continues to thrive. The district was designated as a nationally recognized Pacesetter Site by the *High Schools That Work* initiative, its writing-across-the-curriculum effort was featured in a nationally distributed Video Journal of Education, school personnel and school committee members made presentations at annual state and national school board conferences and those efforts were acknowledged by both the National School Boards Association and the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. The entire teaching and administrative staff can take credit for the tangible growth, measured by empirical data, which has made this benchmarked enhancement possible.

Highlights of the 1999-2000 school year are many and varied. Most significant to the system's primary focus on improving student achievement is the continually improving NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) test results and the proven improvement in math scores evidenced by pre- and post-testing of freshmen and sophomores. These positive outcomes are substantiated by a constant flow of letters from employers, parents, alumni and students acknowledging the difference the system has made in the lives of students past and present.

Other highlights include the completion of school-wide computer networking, activation and increasing use of the district website, a successful first football season and growing success for many other sports teams, such as the first-ever tournament eligibility of the baseball team. The Valley Tech Wellness Center, the state's first rural school-based adolescent health center, was opened with corporate, community and legislative support. Team Harmony, an extra-curricular activity for students, enjoyed significant renown with the bestowal of the prestigious Lewis/Jennings award on students from Bellingham and Douglas, and the system was well-represented in Lions Club speech contests by regional level winners from Millbury and Bellingham.

In addition, female manufacturing technologies students were recognized as role models at a state-wide conference, the house building program completed its first house, and exciting integration projects, such as the Industrial Revolution and bluebird studies, continued with area elementary schools. The Superintendent's Dinner fund raiser passed the 250 attendee mark and new opportunities for synergy have been developed through the Blackstone Valley Educational Collaborative.

The FY2000 total operating budget for the district was \$9,827,803. The Net School Spending requirement of the district was \$8,056,530. This sum was funded through Chapter 70 Aid of \$5,424,271 and Minimum Contribution requirements from the 13 member towns totaling \$2,785,209. In the operation portion of the budget, but outside DOE net school spending areas, the district had a budget of \$558,980 for transportation, \$80,770 for acquisition of fixed assets, and an

obligation of \$160,000 for retiree medical coverage. In addition to their state-required Minimum Contributions, the member towns supported the school's operating budget with shared assessments for operations, student transportation, asset acquisition, and retiree medical. Funds received from the state for regional student transportation amounted to \$481,331. The district's debt obligation for FY2000 was \$287,040. This was funded by an assessment allotted among the member towns in accordance with the District Agreement.

As the result of an additional Chapter 70 allocation to the district received mid-year and enhanced by unreserved fund balance resources, the district school committee is pleased to be able to reduce FY2001 assessments by a \$200,000 district-wide credit.

With an expansion study now underway, it is expected that funding for a campus expansion will be requested during the 2000-2001 school year. A venture capital fund raising campaign was launched in the fall of 1999 and more than \$56,000 in regional corporate support has been raised to date.

The Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District is governed by a 13-member board, with 1 member representing each community in the district. Each member, elected district-wide, serves a four-year term which will expire December 31, 2002. On June 23, 2000, the board accepted with deep regret the resignation of Jay P. Hanratty, the long-term school committee member from Millbury, who had most capably served as chairman since 1993. The Valley Tech community was also saddened by the sudden loss of its district treasurer, Anthony Rando, who died on May 29, 2000. Tony had previously served as the Milford representative to the school board for 10 years and had been the district's treasurer since 1987.

Today, Valley Tech stands as a positive reflection of the aspirations of those most closely affected by its mission: the students, families, and communities it serves. The system has moved from gatekeeper to synthesizer, from judge of good answers to creator of good questions for students who learn well from multiple sources. Education today, and vocational technical education in particular, is ripe for fresh insights. With strong community endorsement and collaboration, Valley Tech is poised to unleash the kind of creativity supporting what teachers, parents and employers want for children and what their community envisions for them.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Kevin Harvey, Acting Chair, Bellingham	Position Vacant, Millbury
Diane M. Paradis, Secretary, Grafton	Gerald M. Finn, Millville
Matthew C. Krajewski, Blackstone	Edward B. Postma, Northbridge
John C. Lavin, III, Douglas	Mitchell A. Intinarelli, Sutton
Everett A. Young, Hopedale	Robert H. Snow, Upton
Michael D. Peterson, Mendon	Daniel L. Baker, Uxbridge
Arthur E. Morin, Jr., Milford	Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick,
	Superintendent-Director

**Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School
Hopedale Residents Graduating with the Class of 2000**

Heather M. Landry - Carpentry

Robert W. Landry, II - Building and Property Maintenance

Joseph F. MacDonald - Plumbing

Lisa K. McCall - Building and Property Maintenance

OFFICE OF



TREE WARDEN

P.O. BOX 7
HOPEDALE, MASS.

REPORT OF THE TREE WARDEN

After being appointed by the Selectmen, I addressed the tree problem in Hopedale. Many large sugar maples and ash trees were removed. Stumps were removed and grass was planted by the Highway Department.

I attended a meeting with the Town Coordinator, Selectmen and several others to discuss salt use on the streets and how different mixes could be used to help slow down the dying of sugar maples.

Tree work was done on the following streets: Dutcher, Park, Mendon, Oak and Hopedale.

David H. Sawyer
Mass. Cert. Arborist #1602



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

78 Hopedale Street - P.O. Box 7
Hopedale, Massachusetts 01747

Tel: 508-634-2203 Fax: 508-634-2200

**Water & Sewer
Commissioners**
Robert Bird, Chm
Christine Burke
Aldo P Tarca

To all users of the Hopedale Water System

I am pleased to submit the following annual report for the period of July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000.

This past year has seen many improvements not only to the distribution system and well field, but also in the administration and collections department.

For the first time in nine years the Water Department was able to collect revenues that exceeded its budget. This was due to a rate change that encourages water conservation by a tier rate structure. Users over 6000 cu/ft a quarter experienced a larger increase than those users using 2000 cu/ft a quarter. These increased revenues will allow the department to maintain the system and adhere to the stringent rules and regulations of the state including water quality testing, lead and copper rulings and consumer confidence reports, as well as improve the infrastructure and continue with our search for additional sources.

Another major accomplishment incorporated this past year was the addition of the Vadar system. This computer system united the Water Department with the Tax Collector, Treasurer and General Office. It enables the department to communicate more efficiently as well as better serve the public in all aspects of the job. This system tracks usage, revenues, history, upgrades as well as meters, piping and producing of the bills for the water and sewer departments. In conjunction with the Vadar System the board approved the installation of the Sensus touch read technology. This billing program enables the meter reader to input a meter reading into a hand held unit on manual reads or touch a pad located on the outside of a house and store the reading. This unit is then plugged into our computer and transferred to the Vadar system. A bill is instantly produced reducing human error and saving hours of inputting from the old meter books to the system.

Additional upgrades include the completion of a Town wide System Study prioritizing improvements. These improvements include the replacement of the six and eight inch water mains on Hopedale Street, the six-inch water main on Mendon Street, and the installation of a booster station in the Pine Crest area. These improvements will not only improve water quality within the area but also improve fire flows throughout town.

System upgrades include the replacement of all water mains from the wells to the pump station at the Mill Street well field. Water Department personnel completed this project in December and were very pleased with its results. The elimination of vacuum leaks within the well field enabled us to draw additional water from the well field with fewer wells while reducing electrical and maintenance costs dramatically. The department also had the Greene Street well cleaned this past spring. Prior to the cleaning these wells were producing 60 to 70 gallons per minute. After

the cleaning these wells now produce 180 gallons per minute. These wells have now been put on an annual cleaning program. With the additional waters being produced from our two sources we have been able to be self-sufficient and purchase no water from the Milford Water Company since the cleaning of the Greene Street wells. It is our hope to serve the south end of Hopedale with Hopedale water in the winter months.

Two wells, 600 feet deep were also drilled for a potential new source near the Mill River. These two wells produce 160 gallons per minute and a third well is scheduled for installation in the near future. Our hopes are for 200 gallons per minute or better to assist with the current Greene street wells and the needs of the growing water demands. If our water search continues successfully and additional sources totaling 200 gallons per minute or more can be maintained, the Hopedale Water Department could be serving all Hopedale residents with water year round.

Future upgrades include the rehabilitation of the Mill Street pump station. This includes new pumps and motors, piping, master meter and surge control. These upgrades will enable the department to not only withdraw additional water, but to fully understand the capabilities of the existing well field. We also plan to install additional wells within the area and observation wells to monitor ground water levels.

In closing I would like to thank the General Office and Mr. Allan Klepper for their help and support in the application of the Vadar system and what I call the uniting of the departments. Without their time and assistance this task would have been much more difficult and time consuming. I would also like to thank the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners for their support and expertise. Mr. Robert Bird is the chairman. He is a Hydrogeologist with conservation in mind at all times and generally interested in the recharge and water sources within Hopedale. He provides a wealth of knowledge and direction in the area and we are truly lucky to have him on board. Mrs. Christine Burke was a former Selectman and is determined to see through all contractual agreements within the department. She was a large factor in passing the bylaw restricting water and sewer services to within Hopedale and is a true believer in documentation as well as policies and procedures. And Mr. Aldo Tarca has once again joined the Board and graced us with his presence and professionalism. He brings with him his past experience and knowledge of the system and how it works. Mr. Tarca has nothing but Hopedale in mind and the safety of the water users.

Finally to the employees of the Water department John Schreiber and Chris Nadeau. These two individuals who work so closely to me are truly dedicated. It is a great relief to me and should be as well for the Town of Hopedale that these two men are always there. This past winter saw many emergencies needing extensive time. We experienced a leak this past January in below zero temperatures. For sixteen hours they worked in knee high water throughout the night without any complaints. For your dedication, professionalism and so much more I thank you. As usual GOOD JOB.

Respectfully submitted

Timothy J Watson
Superintendent
Hopedale Water Dept



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

78 Hopedale Street - P.O. Box 7
Hopedale, Massachusetts 01747

Tel: 508-634-2203 Fax: 508-634-2200
E-mail: hope_acct@tp.net

Town Accountant
Sharon E. Emerick

REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT

The Board of Selectmen and
Residents of Hopedale

The following report reflects the financial condition of the Town of Hopedale as of June 30, 2000 and for the year then ended. The financial statements include the combined balance sheet and combined statement of revenues and expenditures. Also presented is the detail statement of expenditures - budget and actual, for town meeting appropriations.

I would like to thank the various town departments for the cooperation and courtesy they have extended to me during the period covered by this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon E. Emerick
Town Accountant

Town of Hopdale
Combined Balance Sheet
June 30, 2000

	General Fund (1)	Special Revenue (22-29)	Capital Projects (31-34)	Sewer Enterprise Fund (61)	Water Special Revenue Fund (20)	Trust & Agency Funds (81-89)	Long Term Debt Account Group (90)	Total
ASSETS								
Cash & Investments:								
Cash & Investments	2,629,326.90	795,896.74	10,871,057.30	323,099.56	137,791.59	1,698,301.76	-	16,455,473.85
Receivables:								
Personal Property	19,979.96							19,979.96
Real Estate	185,224.64							185,224.64
Tax Liens	130,134.53							130,134.53
Deferred Property	8,699.27							8,699.27
Tax Foreclosures	41,966.93							41,966.93
Motor Vehicle Excise	108,793.80							108,793.80
Total Tax and Excise	494,799.13	-	-	-	-	-	-	494,799.13
User Charges				19,476.20	15,993.94			35,470.14
Other Service				-	637.38			637.38
Special Assessments				1,676,514.78	-			1,676,514.78
Total User Charges and Assessments	-	-	-	1,695,990.98	16,631.32	-	-	1,712,622.30
Total Receivables	494,799.13	-	-	1,695,990.98	16,631.32	-	-	2,207,421.43
Due from Commonwealth		106,583.37						106,583.37
Amounts To Be Provided:								
Bonds Authorized								-
Bonds Authorized and Unissued								-
Amounts to be Provided for BANS			2,376,000.00				22,279,275.00	22,279,275.00
Amounts to be Provided for Bonds			2,376,000.00				22,279,275.00	24,655,275.00
TOTAL ASSETS	3,124,126.03	902,480.11	13,247,057.30	2,019,090.54	154,422.91	1,698,301.76	22,279,275.00	43,424,753.65

Town of Hopedale
Combined Balance Sheet
June 30, 2000

	General Fund (1)	Other Special Revenue (22-29)	Capital Projects (31-34)	Sewer Enterprise Fund (61)	Water Special Revenue Fund (20)	Trust & Agency Funds (81-89)	Long Term Debt Account Group (90)	Total
LIABILITIES								
Warrants Payable	217,758.33	21,096.22		2,241.35	19,240.65	3,139.37		263,475.92
Withholdings	71,681.12							71,681.12
Provision for Abatelements/Exemptions	172,364.88					(1,306.35)		172,364.88
Agency Accounts								(1,306.35)
Tailings	8,975.76							8,975.76
Deferred Revenue:								
Property Taxes	32,839.72							32,839.72
Tax Liens	130,134.53							130,134.53
Deferred Taxes	8,699.27							8,699.27
Tax Foreclosures	41,966.93							41,966.93
Motor Vehicle	108,793.80			1,695,990.98	16,631.32			108,793.80
Water & Sewer		106,583.37						1,712,622.30
Intergovernmental		106,583.37		1,695,990.98	16,631.32			106,583.37
	322,434.25							2,141,639.92
Bond Anticipation Notes			2,376,000.00					2,376,000.00
Bond Payable:								
Sewer Plant							1,049,275.00	1,049,275.00
High School Building							15,250,000.00	15,250,000.00
Memorial School Building							5,980,000.00	5,980,000.00
							22,279,275.00	22,279,275.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	793,214.34	127,679.59	2,376,000.00	1,698,232.33	35,871.97	1,833.02	22,279,275.00	27,312,106.25

Town of Hopedale
Combined Balance Sheet
June 30, 2000

	General Fund (1)	Other Special Revenue (22-29)	Capital Projects (31-34)	Sewer Enterprise Fund (61)	Water Special Revenue Fund (20)	Trust & Agency Funds (81-89)	Long Term Debt Account Group (90)	Total
FUND BALANCE								
Reserved Fund Balance:								
Reserved for Encumbrances	395,853.76			14,909.92	108.00			410,871.68
Reserved for Carryovers	1,092,536.92			96,653.00	27,050.00			1,216,239.92
Reserved for Receivable Variance	(466.43)							(466.43)
Reserved for Petty Cash	220.00							220.00
	1,488,144.25	-	-	111,562.92	27,158.00	-	-	1,626,865.17
Designated Fund Balance		774,800.52	10,871,057.30			1,696,468.74		13,342,326.56
Unreserved Fund Balance	842,767.44	-	-	209,295.29	91,392.94	-	-	1,143,455.67
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	2,330,911.69	774,800.52	10,871,057.30	320,858.21	118,550.94	1,696,468.74	-	16,112,647.40
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	3,124,126.03	902,480.11	13,247,057.30	2,019,090.54	154,422.91	1,698,301.76	22,279,275.00	43,424,753.65

Town of Hopdale
Combined Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
June 30, 2000

	General Fund (1)	Other Special Revenue (22-29)	Capital Projects (31-34)	Sewer Enterprise Fund (51)	Water Special Revenue Fund (20)	Trust & Agency Funds (81-89)	Long Term Debt Account Group (90)	Total
REVENUE								
Taxes:								
Personal Property	185,239.81							185,239.81
Real Estate	5,578,692.95							5,578,692.95
Tax Liens Redeemed	77,505.04							77,505.04
Motor Vehicle Excise	627,539.69							627,539.69
Penalties & Interest	39,597.43							39,597.43
Total Taxes	6,508,574.92	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,508,574.92
-	-							
User Charges:								
Water					419,091.70			419,091.70
Sewer				419,476.32				419,476.32
Sewer Betterment				105,612.80				105,612.80
Total User Charges	-	-	-	525,089.12	419,091.70	-	-	944,180.82
Slate Aid	5,351,960.42	266,358.49						5,618,318.91
Other Special Revenue		1,067,646.51						1,067,646.51
Other Local Receipts:								
Charges for Services	47,309.54	108,429.13	-	-	-	-	-	155,738.67
Licenses & Permits	84,662.15			25.00				84,687.15
Fines & Forfeits	25,699.00							25,699.00
Interest	291,142.46					93,907.73		385,050.19
Other Miscellaneous Revenue	8,554.57							8,554.57
	457,367.72	108,429.13	-	25.00	-	93,907.73	-	659,729.58
TOTAL REVENUE	12,317,903.06	1,442,434.13	-	525,114.12	419,091.70	93,907.73	-	14,798,450.74

Town of Hopdale
Combined Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
June 30, 2000

	General Fund (1)	Other Special Revenue (22-29)	Capital Projects (31-34)	Sewer Enterprise Fund (61)	Water Special Revenue Fund (20)	Trust & Agency Funds (81-89)	Long Term Debt Account Group (90)	Total
EXPENDITURES								
Expenditures:								
General Government	658,848.85	2,055.00						670,903.85
Police	644,853.35	34,884.20						679,737.55
Fire	322,166.19	587.47						322,753.66
Ambulance	57,530.47							57,530.47
Inspectors	18,046.85							18,046.85
Forestry	7,532.89							7,532.89
Other Public Safety	13,807.13	977.40						14,784.53
Education	6,294,653.28	995,653.70	5,349,381.00					12,639,687.98
Highway	288,720.83	45,203.99						333,924.82
Sewer			406,123.11	271,216.62	424,646.97			677,339.73
Water								424,646.97
Other Public Works	32,363.01	1,200.00						33,563.01
Board of Health	246,942.99	1,996.20						248,939.19
Council on Aging	37,485.98	2,620.52						40,106.50
Veterans	3,408.20							3,408.20
Library	139,732.49	6,798.49				7,438.12		153,970.10
Parks	26,425.06	5,941.37				208.07		32,574.50
Council on Arts	3,100.00	2,678.00						5,778.00
Other Culture and Recreation	1,628.66							1,628.66
Debt Service	1,027,418.23			100,370.00				1,127,788.23
State and County Charges	410,151.91							410,151.91
Employee Benefits	959,200.10							959,200.10
Total Expenditures	11,204,016.47	1,100,596.34	5,755,504.11	371,586.62	424,646.97	7,647.19	-	18,863,997.70
Excess (deficiency) of Revenue								
Over Expenditures	1,113,886.59	341,837.79	(5,755,504.11)	153,527.50	(5,555.27)	86,260.54	-	(4,065,546.96)
Other Financing Sources (Uses):								
Other Financing Sources	262,610.05		22,626,000.00			3,355.00		22,891,965.05
Other Financing Uses	(3,355.00)	-	(5,676,000.00)	(24,729.00)	(17,412.00)	(175,000.00)		(5,896,496.00)
	259,255.05		16,950,000.00	(24,729.00)	(17,412.00)	(171,645.00)	-	16,395,469.05
Excess of Revenues and Other Sources								
Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Uses	1,373,141.64	341,837.79	11,194,495.89	128,798.50	(22,967.27)	(85,384.46)	-	12,929,922.09

Town of Hopedale
Statement of Expenditures
June 30, 2000

	Budget	Expended	Encumbered	Unexpended
Town Moderator	250.00	200.00		50.00
Selectmen	6,650.00	6,447.76		202.24
Manager	92,481.25	90,525.13	823.57	1,132.55
Finance Committee	6,788.00	1,230.16		5,557.84
Accountant	52,682.52	52,203.43		479.09
Assessors	61,479.00	55,306.25		6,172.75
Treasurer/Collector	86,489.00	83,463.95		3,025.05
Capital Improvement	677,549.58	230,839.00	446,698.59	11.99
Legal	56,881.65	51,508.37		5,373.28
Personnel Committee	10,870.00	10,870.00		0.00
Tax Title	6,557.50	5,283.13	441.65	832.72
Town Clerk	30,551.00	30,278.96		272.04
Parking Clerk	1,135.89	902.57		233.32
Conservation	500.00	190.00		310.00
Planning Board	454.20	380.00		74.20
Zoning Board	164.32	162.53		1.79
Industrial Development	200.00	0.00		200.00
Computer System	15,000.00	13,655.50		1,344.50
Town Hall	44,672.75	35,402.11	8,460.31	810.33
Police Department	650,515.00	644,853.35	983.39	4,678.26
Fire Department	358,150.88	322,166.19	29,532.00	6,452.69
Town Detail	6,000.00	5,956.03		43.97
Ambulance	60,625.00	57,530.47	1,135.72	1,958.81
Inspectors	19,520.00	18,046.85	634.39	838.76
Civil Defense	1,543.81	1,351.10	177.00	15.71
Dog Officer	6,800.00	6,500.00		300.00
Tree Warden	12,250.00	7,532.89	2,340.00	2,377.11
School Department	7,284,888.08	6,294,653.28	988,286.76	1,948.04
Highway Department	250,596.07	242,723.96	6,958.12	913.99
Highway Snow & Ice	46,000.00	45,996.87		3.13
Street Lighting	32,290.00	30,743.51		1,546.49
Cemetery	2,500.00	1,619.50		880.50
Board of Health	261,771.00	246,942.99		14,828.01
Council on Aging	39,422.00	37,485.98	144.03	1,791.99
Veterans	3,460.00	3,408.20		51.80
Commission on Disabilities	200.00	17.50		182.50
Library	139,985.00	139,732.49		252.51
Parks	27,808.00	26,425.06		1,382.94
Historical Committee	2,000.00	547.21	783.00	669.79
Memorial Day	483.04	413.95		69.09
Red Shop	991.68	650.00	8.32	333.36
Council on Arts	3,100.00	3,100.00		0.00
Debt	1,027,477.00	1,027,418.23		58.77
State Assessments	10,447.00	12,636.00		-2,189.00
County Assessments	360,036.00	360,036.00		0.00
Other Assessments	30,980.00	30,979.91		0.09
Elder Program	7,500.00	6,500.00		1,000.00
Employee Benefits	971,474.26	953,718.15	983.83	16,772.28
Other Expenses	102,486.15	5,481.95		97,004.20
	12,872,656.63	11,204,016.47	1,488,390.68	180,249.48
Transfers to Stabilization	3,355.00	3,355.00		0.00
	12,876,011.63	11,207,371.47	1,488,390.68	180,249.48



Christine M. Goodwin
Treasurer/Town Collector

P.O. Box 7
Hopedale, MA 01747
Tel: 508-634-2203

REPORT OF THE TOWN TREASURER

TREASURER'S CASH BALANCES AS OF JUNE 30, 2000

NON INTEREST BEARING ACCOUNTS:

Cash in Office	\$250.00	
		<u>\$250.00</u>

INTEREST BEARING CHECKING ACCOUNTS

Fleet - Operating	\$13,265.55	
Boston Safe - Vendor Account	\$0.00	
Unibank - Major Deposits	\$1,000.00	
Unibank - Payroll	\$4,643.68	
		<u>\$18,909.23</u>

LIQUID INVESTMENTS

Fleet (Performance Bond	\$4,123.97	
Fleet (Performance Bond)	\$3,524.85	
Ben Franklin Savings (Performance Bond)	\$10,000.00	
Boston Safe Deposit MM	\$1,393,292.09	
Fleet MM	\$10,735.49	
State Street	\$661,458.48	
Unibank MM	\$286,036.88	
Citizens MM	\$1,776,910.39	
Century Bank & Trust	\$21,419.07	
Peoples Savings Bank C.D.s	\$2,111,800.50	
		<u>\$6,279,301.72</u>

TERM INVESTMENTS

Fleet (Library Fund)	\$7,404.34	
Paine Webber (General Inv. Fund)	\$8,449,006.18	
		<u>\$8,456,410.52</u>

STABILIZATION

Fleet	\$112,204.34	
Paine Webber	\$1,492,460.06	
		<u>\$1,604,664.40</u>

TRUST FUNDS

PAINE WEBBER	\$95,569.52	
		<u>\$95,569.52</u>

TOTAL CASH AND INVESTMENTS		<u>\$16,455,105.39</u>
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Christine M. Goodwin
Treasurer/Town Collector

P.O. Box 7
Hopedale, MA 01747
Tel: 508-634-2203

STATEMENT OF INDEBTNESS
Fiscal Year 2000

Long Term Debt	Outstanding July 1, 1999	New Debt Issued	Retirements	Outstanding June 30,2000	Interest Paid in FY00
Buildings	\$80,000	\$0	\$80,000	\$0	\$4,574
Departmental Equip.	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$1,120
School Buildings	\$6,410,000	\$15,250,000	\$430,000	\$21,230,000	\$299,928
Sewer	\$1,094,900	\$0	\$45,625	\$1,049,275	\$54,745
Total Long Term Debt	\$7,604,900	\$15,250,000	\$575,625	\$22,279,275	\$360,367

Short Term Debt	Outstanding July 1, 1999	New Debt Issued	Retirements	Outstanding June 30,2000	Interest Paid in FY00
School Buildings	\$300,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,300,000	\$0	\$169,735
Sewer	\$376,000	\$376,000	\$376,000	\$376,000	\$13,912
Total Short Term Debt	\$676,000	\$5,376,000	\$5,676,000	\$376,000	\$183,647



Christine M. Goodwin
Treasurer/Town Collector

P.O. Box 7
Hopedale, MA 01747
Tel: 508-634-2203

REPORT OF THE TOWN COLLECTOR

Fiscal Year 2000

RECEIVABLES BALANCES AS OF JUNE 30, 2000

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES

Fiscal 1998 & Prior	\$14,902.51
Fiscal 1999	\$2,211.02
Fiscal 2000	\$2,866.43
	<u>\$19,979.96</u>

REAL ESTATE TAXES

Fiscal 1998 and Prior	\$5,997.73
Fiscal 1999	\$3,556.18
Fiscal 2000	\$175,670.73
	<u>\$185,224.64</u>

TAX TITLE ACCOUNTS	<u>\$154,449.22</u>
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TAX DEFERRAL ACCOUNT	<u>\$8,699.27</u>
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MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE

Fiscal 1997 and Prior	\$54,956.25
Fiscal 1998	\$3,623.43
Fiscal 1999	\$9,635.52
Fiscal 2000	\$40,578.80
	<u>\$108,794.00</u>

TOTAL OUTSTANDING RECEIVABLES	<u><u>\$477,147.09</u></u>
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TOWN OF HOPEDALE
MANAGEMENT LETTER
JUNE 30, 1999

REDDING & REDDING

Certified Public Accountants

P.O. Box 392, Uxbridge, MA 01569 • (508) 278-2655 • (508) 791-8190 • FAX (508) 278-3654

Board of Selectmen
Town of Hopedale
Hopedale, Massachusetts

We have audited the general purpose financial statements of the Town of Hopedale for the year ended June 30, 1999, and have issued our report thereon dated December 16, 1999. As part of our audit, we made a study and evaluation of the Town's system of internal accounting control to the extent we considered necessary to evaluate the system as required by generally accepted auditing standards. The purpose of our study and evaluation was to determine the nature, timing, and extent of the auditing procedures necessary for expressing an opinion on the Town's financial statements. Our study and evaluation was more limited than would be necessary to express an opinion on the system of internal accounting control taken as a whole.

The Town is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of internal accounting control. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments are required to assess the expected benefits and provide the Town with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, and that transactions are executed in accordance with proper authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and/or statutory requirements.

Because of inherent limitations in any system of internal accounting control, errors or irregularities may nevertheless occur and not be detected. Also projections of any evaluation of the system to future periods is subject to the risk that procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the procedures may deteriorate.

Our study and evaluation made for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph would not necessarily disclose all material weaknesses in the system. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the system of internal accounting control of the Town of Hopedale taken as a whole. Our study and evaluation disclosed no condition that we believe to be a material weakness. However, we did note the existence of several matters which are shared with you in this report.

We are available to assist you in reviewing and/or implementing the specific recommendations, and we would be pleased to discuss them in more detail at your convenience.

Sincerely,


Redding & Redding

December 16, 1999

ASSESSING:

PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS

Observations:

During fiscal 1999, the Town billed out \$40,752 less in personal property taxes than the amount estimated on the tax recapitulation sheet, resulting in a revenue loss of this amount. This was the first year of preparing taxes on the new software.

Assessors prepared abatements for personal property tax bills that were billed in the first two quarters for businesses closed or billed in error. The software system automatically created an abatement for such circumstances, resulting in a duplicate credit. There were no written instructions provided to the Assessors' office to guide their handling of such circumstances.

Personal property records are not updated as systematically as real estate taxes annually, resulting in a potential loss of taxes. Transfers of real estate properties are tracked through legal documents which require notification to the Town. Personal property does not have a similar mechanism of automatic notification to the Town. Assessors rely on registrations of businesses with the Town Clerk or direct notification by businesses through the abatement application process to determine changes.

Recommendations:

*A specific reconciliation form should be developed to assure taxes billed are reconciled to the tax recap amounts, which are critical to the budget for the Town. A signature portion should be included to indicate responsibility for reconciliation.

*A specific set of instructions or user manual should be provided to guide the Assessors in understanding how to handle account corrections that are outside of the normal abatement process.

*Personal property records should be updated on a regular basis. Potential new personal property taxes should be more aggressively pursued by improved coordination with the Town Clerk and by a more aggressive policy towards identifying new businesses.

Management's Response:

The record indicates approval of an estimated amount for personal property by the Assessors rather than reconciling differences found on the file by the software vendor. The Assessors have been notified of a zero tolerance policy for the future.

Management's Response (continued):

There has been improvement in the communication between the Assessors and the Town Clerk in regards to new businesses in Town. The Town Clerk will be working toward having all businesses in Town registered in her office.

TAX COLLECTIONS and ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE:

Tax collection rates improved from 97% in fiscal 1998 to 98% in fiscal 1999 for personal property taxes and from 95% in fiscal 1998 to 98% in fiscal 1999 for real estate taxes. The Treasurer/Collector has made tax collections a priority and her dedication to this task is demonstrated by these improved statistics.

TAX DEFERRALS UNDER CL 41A

Observations:

A property under a tax deferral agreement allowed under MGL CH59 § 5, Cl.41A, was allowed to be transferred to another party on March 1, 1999, without payment of deferred taxes of \$8,699.27. The Tax Collector was not aware the property was under Cl.41A. No method of flagging records is currently in use to prevent the Tax Collector from failing to report tax deferrals under 41A on the certificate of municipal lien required prior to legal transfer of real property. The Tax Collector became aware of the tax deferral in her detailed review of tax lien records.

Recommendations:

*The Tax Collector should work with the software vendor to flag real estate accounts to indicate special arrangements, such as Cl.41A, to assure all information is available at the time of preparation of the certificate of municipal lien.

*A procedural checklist for recording, maintaining, and releasing Cl.41A properties should be developed internally.

Management's Response:

The Tax Collector has made the request for a flag. The software vendor is currently working on this.

TAX COLLECTIONS and ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE:

TAX LIENS

Observations:

The Town reached an agreement with a taxpayer in an adversary proceeding in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, resulting in the write-off of \$226,517 of property taxes, interest and fees. The tax portion of this write-off (\$161,125) was not charged against the allowances for abatements, exemptions, and corrections (overlay) for the appropriate tax years.

The Assessors did not notify the accountant of this outstanding abatement case and its potential impact on the allowances for abatements, exemptions, and corrections.

Recommendations:

*All tax agreements or adjustments should be reviewed to assure tax settlements which constitute abatements are charged against the appropriate overlay account.

*Coordination between Assessors', Treasurer/Collector's, and Town Accountant's offices should be improved with respect to tax title accounts.

*An annual review of the status of overlay accounts should be reported by the Assessors to the accountant at the time of annual budget preparation. The review is required as part of the tax rate setting process by the Department of Revenue, but it is not required internally.

Management's Response:

At the time of the agreement there were many new employees in these key positions. Although the abatement process lies with the Assessors, other departments were not aware of the impact of the settlement. Now notified, we do not foresee this as a problem in the future.

UTILITY BILLING:

WATER/SEWER CHARGES RECEIVABLE

Observations:

The water/sewer utility billing module is still under development. The Town is acting as a beta site for the software development. A number of shortcomings were noted that result from this situation.

The reporting and processing transactions for utility billing were not finalized during fiscal 1999. Because the program was not finalized, no manual has been written. Reconciliation of billing activity and account balances was not maintained during the fiscal year by the clerk, who was struggling with software changes and developmental delays. Reconciliation of detail accounts receivable accounts to control totals was accomplished for June 30, 1999 upon our request during audit fieldwork.

Recommendations:

*The Town should establish achievable deadlines for utility software development and delivery of a manual for the module. The deadlines should be monitored by the system administrator and water/sewer commissioners.

*Detailed listing of all accounts receivable should be reconciled during the year and a list of all accounts outstanding at year end should be maintained for reconciliation and audit purposes for at least one year.

Management's Response:

The Town has met with VADAR and we have a list of agreed upon changes and enhancements that are to be made. We have successfully billed the Town in January and billed our first estimated bill in April. We are currently working with VADAR and Putnam Pipe to use meter reading guns for the actual billing in July.

UTILITY BILLING (continued):

BETTERMENT ASSESSMENTS

Observations:

Sewer capital projects have not been treated as a "betterment" for assigning and collecting the cost of debt and interest on those projects. Rather, the amount required for such debt services is added to the bills of all users, not just those who have directly benefited from the improvement.

The more common method of apportioning the cost of debt and interest for sewer extensions that benefit a development or other specific area is to divide the cost of the project among those who directly benefit and assess the cost as a "betterment." Using this method, the cost is only borne by those who benefit by the betterment to their property. In addition, the betterment becomes a lien on the property.

Recommendations:

- *The Water/Sewer Commissioners should research and consider treating future expansions as betterments to those who benefit by the improvement rather than spreading the debt service among all users.

Management's Response:

Insufficient concentration has been applied to reconstructing historical decisions, legal obligations etc. Concerted effort required to set or correct policy.

ACCOUNTING AND BUDGETING:

FRINGE BENEFIT ALLOCATIONS:

Observations:

Health care premiums are currently budgeted Town-wide in one account. Separating health care premiums as well as Medicare and County retirement costs into more discrete groups, such as by department for current employees and separated for Town, School and Retirees, would aid in the allocation of current costs and the projection of future costs.

ACCOUNTING AND BUDGETING (continued):

FRINGE BENEFIT ALLOCATIONS (continued):

Observations:

Such an analysis could assist in assuring fringe benefits costs are absorbed, whenever possible, by grants, revolvers, or other special revenue accounts. Also, it will assure proper credit is given in calculating and monitoring net school spending to the Town for it's portion of school department benefits budgeted within the General Fund.

Recommendations:

*The Treasurer and Town Accountant should analyze and separate fringe benefit costs for future budget years.

*Wherever possible, special revenue accounts should absorb the cost of providing fringe benefits to employees paid through the special revenue account.

Management's Response:

The Treasurer and Town Accountant are currently reviewing health insurance to establish a list of current employees and retirees. The Treasurer is reconciling who is prepaid and who is in arrears for their health insurance. A billing package has been purchased for health insurance billing. This will enable the Town to better monitor the payments from retirees and those who are on Cobra. The Treasurer is setting up procedures to track benefit costs by groups in FY01 for use in the budget process for FY02.

WARRANT APPROVALS

Observations:

MGL CH41 § 56 requires the Board of Selectmen to review and approve the warrant prepared by the Town Accountant prior to payment of vendors by the Treasurer. A majority of the Board is required to satisfy this statute. The Board of Selectmen in the Town of Hopedale is comprised of 3 members; a majority would be 2 members for warrant approval.

We noted two instances of warrants signed by only one Selectmen. These occurred in a period when the Board was comprised of only two members due to a resignation.

We noted 3 signatures which were provided by fax.

ACCOUNTING AND BUDGETING (continued):

WARRANT APPROVALS (continued):

Recommendations:

*In the case of a vacancy in the Board of Selectmen, MGL CH41 §56 provides that the Town Clerk may sign the warrant during the vacancy.

*A warrant signature provided by fax in an emergency situation should be followed up as soon as possible by an original signature.

Management's Response:

Wednesday evening has been established as warrant signing night for the Selectmen. The new process is working well.

FIXED ASSET ACCOUNTING

Observations:

On June 10, 1999, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) adopted Statement 34, entitled, "Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments." This statement will significantly change the way governments report their finances to the public. Among the changes will be a requirement to record and report fixed assets and infrastructure. For the Town of Hopedale, the implementation date is the fiscal year beginning after June 15, 2003, which is your fiscal year 2004. Inasmuch as you are now budgeting for fiscal 2001, planning should begin now for compliance with the requirements of GASB Statement 34.

The Town of Hopedale does not currently record fixed assets and infrastructure.

Recommendations:

*The Town Accountant and Coordinator should develop a strategy for implementing GASB Statement 34, including developing estimates of required technology and consultant fees for future budgets.

ACCOUNTING AND BUDGETING (continued):

FIXED ASSET ACCOUNTING (continued):

Management's Response:

The Town Accountant and Coordinator are aware of GASB Statement 34 and will be researching the scope of requirements and inquiring on required technology.

SCHOOL ACCOUNTING:

YEAR END RECONCILIATION

Observations:

As noted in the prior year's management letter, reconciliation of school special revenue accounts to the Town's general ledger balances were not performed on a timely basis for fiscal year end June 30, 1999. Reclassification of income and expense made between discretionary accounts as of June 30, 1998, which changed the beginning balances for fiscal 1999, were not communicated to the Town Accountant for recording in the general ledger.

Student activity accounts have not been brought into the Town's general ledger as provided under Chapter 66 of the laws of 1996. The Mass. Association of School Business Officers has adopted a protocol for recording student activity balances and processing student activity receipts and disbursements that can be adopted by communities and which could guide the Town's implementation.

Recommendations:

*Any changes to school accounting records on the basis of further analysis should be communicated to the Town Accountant for recording in the Town's general ledger.

*Reconciliation of all accounts should occur throughout the fiscal year and should be completed as promptly as possible after year end. Reconciliation should be completed before the School's End of Year Report and the Town's Schedule A are filed.

*Student Activity Accounts need to be brought in the general ledger in accordance with MGL Ch 66.

SCHOOL ACCOUNTING (continued):

YEAR END RECONCILIATION (continued):

Management's Response:

The Town Accountant and Treasurer will be working with the School Department to bring the Student Activity funds into the general ledger. The Town Accountant and the Superintendent have been working together on the current budget and do not foresee a problem in reconciling for the coming fiscal year end.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS:

Observations:

As noted above in previous comments, the Town is considered a "beta site" by the software vendor. A beta site agrees to assist in software development by providing feedback. The product is not considered complete when first installed.

We asked all users to show us their user's manuals for applications. We were shown only one manual for tax liens. We spoke by telephone with a representative of the software vendor and were informed that manuals were available for all modules except for utility billing, which was still in development. We were informed most manuals were available as Word documents available for reference or printing from the transaction menus. We were able to view the accounts payable manual following this conversation. The Town Accountant had never been notified of this feature.

Recommendations:

*The System Administrator should consider surveying software users to prioritize a master list of unfinished products, questions, and concerns. A meeting with the software vendor should be scheduled to establish achievable deadlines for the priority list. The System Administrator should monitor this agreement and report to the Town Coordinator on progress.

*The Town Coordinator and System Administrator should establish a training schedule to assure training in technology, including for general ledger and related modules, word processing, spreadsheet, and specialized programs, is on-going.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS (continued):

Management's Response:

On March 23rd, a meeting was held between VADAR Systems, the software users and the computer consultant for the Town of Hopedale. A list of requests and priorities was established and are currently being worked on. We are also in the process of training individual department on the accounts payable package and have increased cross training on other packages.

PRIOR YEAR'S COMMENTS AS YET UNRESOLVED:

WATER/SEWER ACCOUNTING:

RATE SETTING

Observations:

No minimum water rate has been established. No reconciliation of total cubic feet pumped to cubic feet billed has been performed. An effective rate setting management policy should include establishment of minimum water rates and transaction reports for management's review of locations using minimum rates, as well as reconciliation to assure all gallons pumped are accounted for as billed or exchanged with general government.

Recommendations:

*Management review for adoption a rate setting policy that includes establishing minimum rates, review of transaction reports for unusual usage levels (high or low), and reconciliation of gallons pumped to gallons billed.

Management's Response:

**A rate analysis study was performed in March of 1998 and was put into effect for June 1998. The rate increase was implemented to promote water conservation while not affecting low water users.*

**A program to track unaccounted for water is being worked on. It includes metering hydrant flushing, estimating water loss from main and service leaks, and water used in fire fighting and training. This information along with our yearly leak detection, hydrant repairs and meter upgrades should give the information needed to reconcile gallons pumped to gallons billed.*

PRIOR YEAR'S COMMENTS AS YET UNRESOLVED:

Significant improvements in transaction processing, analysis and reconciliation were noted in fiscal 1999. The Town Coordinator reviewed the fiscal 1998 management letter comments, solicited responses from all impacted departments and developed a strategy to implement suggestions. Those responses were incorporated into our management report and were subsequently monitored by the Town Coordinator.

The Treasurer/Collector, who was appointed November 1998, worked diligently at transferring all tax receivable records to the new software and improving reporting and reconciliation on those receivables. She has assisted the software vendor in improving cash receipts, cash reporting and cash management functions.

The Town Accountant helped develop a budget preparation worksheet and protocol for the general ledger software that will be implemented in fiscal 2000 for the fiscal 2001 budget. As system coordinator, she assisted in implementing the abatement function for the tax receivable module in the Assessors' office and the utility billing module for water and sewer.

The Treasurer/Collector and Town Accountant have formed a financial team to improve cooperation and coordination between their departments, provide detailed feedback to the software vendor, improve reconciliation techniques and timeliness, and assist each other in researching projects.

Only two comments have not been resolved, due to priorities and time constraints:

*Deferred Compensation Plan assets under IRC Section 457 should be reconciled and reported within the Town's general ledger.

*The Town should adopt a formal policy regarding cash collateralization and investment to avoid exposure of uninsured deposits.

1999 GROSS EARNING

TrueGross YTD

Barry	Michelle	435.00
Beckvold	Keith E.	2317.18
Maclean	James S.	2475.00
Malnati	Robert M.	3890.58
Murphy	Harold V.	3688.54
Best	Victor G.	49800.68
Costanza	Eugene P.	60430.59
Delannoy	Denise M.	27836.02
Gardner	James M.	44308.68
Giovanella	Mark A.	57954.27
Mank	Richard P.	63940.96
Martin Sr.	Donald J.	30273.90
Minichielli	Wayne J.	40918.25
Sweet	Steven J.	39192.10
Valliere	Shawn B.	29120.37
Bucchino	Mark P.	5278.95
Carrington	John	4680.00
Collins	Lisa M.	29671.92
Cooper	Armand F.	4255.49
Mason	Cherie A.	4301.82
Phipps	Charles	480.00
Reardon	Gregory Michael	19371.23
Rossi	Todd	13282.39
Tebeau	John	20193.36
Barry	Paul	39541.18
Carron	Mark A.	38720.52
Daige	Thomas M. Jr	46440.63
Garland	Scott	45077.22
McMorrow	David J.	32931.23
Bertulli	Allen	313.50
Boldy	Todd E.	40410.47
Castiglione	Paul	633.66
Costanza	Louis J.	181.25
Curley	James P.	2611.55
Drugan	Joseph P.	2313.00
Falvey	James	417.25
Hester	Charles E.	1645.48
MacLean	Joseph	236.00
Moffi	Paul J.	684.00
Parisi	Paul.J.	464.00
Poissant	Russell P.	228.00
Sanchioni	John A.	742.29
Sullo	Nicholas	554.50
Testa	Todd	383.50
Wagner	Stephen M.	118.00
Zorzi	Paul	199.50
Tusino	Michael A.	9500.00
Balanca	John M.	900.00
Shimkus	Albert	2030.00

Panorese	Ernest M.	850.00
Gagnon	John P.	9973.67
Mael	Leon J.	400.00
Sawyer	David H.	517.50
Bega	Scott R.	4000.72
Blatz	Paul	35342.12
Chaisson	Michael	1500.00
Daige	Thomas A.	42273.88
Lightbown	Brian	29787.33
Murphy	Denise	37841.16
Trenchard	Margaret A.	21273.10
Wellman	Gail L.	20984.91
Deponte	Robert S.	43574.04
Fafard	Donald	675.00
Farrer Jr.	John E.	475.00
Gaffney	Charles F.	30885.12
Lambert	Gerald	25953.82
Cooper	Donald	38735.32
Morin	Jeffrey M.	28158.43
Tremblay	Marcel H.	35932.38
Burke	Christine H.	594.99
Nadeau	Christopher	16896.27
Schreiber	John T.	37988.32
Watson	Timothy J.	44994.52
Langlois	Laura	3440.00
Pasichny	Elizabeth A.	1804.56
Sternbane	Lisa A.	192.00
Larkin	Francis J.	200.00
Burt	Edward	925.00
Milanoski	Michael	541.88
Sparling Jr.	Alfred H.	925.00
Binkowski	Linda A.	10368.95
Klepper	Allan C.	47602.58
Emerick	Sharon E.	37850.47
Alberto	Lisa M.	1250.00
Carbone	Robert A.	1149.00
Murray	Russell J.	19584.33
Volpe	Richard L.	1251.00
Feeley	Lauren	1530.00
Lamphere	Donna	28754.79
Ohannesian	Ronda	20611.12
Milanoski	Dorothy C.	434.00
Stock	Bernard	434.00
Lyons	Leo	163.13
Moynihan	Jayne	434.00
Biuso	Christopher	2313.24
Erickson	Todd R.	2097.33
Gleason Jr.	Richard J.	1749.69
Gross	Vernon	1401.58
Johnson	Earle	82.50
Kaufman	James	373.35
Lopez	Daniel	6202.27

MacLean	Dawn	502.56
Mailing	Donald	1591.02
Murphy	Patrick	2785.00
Stenton	Anthony	764.84
Izzo	Leonard A.	6700.00
Mitchell	Peter B.	500.00
Monique	Joanne E.	450.00
Sales	Elizabeth W.	450.00
Carpenter	Mildred L.	1800.00
Mullen	Carole K.	21640.11
Mastroianni	A J	2422.92
Sullivan	Kyle R.	1848.60
Kraimer	Elaine M.	15878.58
Malloy	Elaine F.	31652.83
Manczurowsky	Walter P.	3389.38
Mattie	Anne L.	16804.28
Stanias	Dorothy L.	4757.70
Sullivan	Wendy H.	9706.72
Verdolino	Katharine	396.00
Boyd	Brett	1161.00
Espanet	Richard P.	300.00
Gunduz	Evren	44.00
Parrott	Cassandra	1719.00
Sesona	Mark G.	250.00
Chiccarelli	Marla	1678.50
Costanza	Michael	156.00
Dalton	Jamie M.	159.38
Ostertog	Kevin	1035.00
Tosches	Jonathan	918.14
Whyte	Joanne D.	3031.89
Prophet	James M.	6581.89
Dennett	Viola	1035.44
Barry	Tania A.	10480.12
Callahan	Thomas M.	38061.82
Cody	Tami	13899.76
Colantoni	Jean L.	23256.89
Curtis	Jean	13018.96
Espanet	Melissa M.	34955.74
Hallion	Andrea M.	83538.51
Kelly	Christine B.	19327.18
McGuane	Jeanne E.	13333.74
Peters	Karen	6214.58
Alexander	Kathleen A.	225.50
Alexander	Mark A.	2313.00
Ashworth	Linda G.	90.00
Atkinson	Marie	261.25
Barys	Gretchen S.	968.40
Binney	James	1495.00
Bishop	Elizabeth I.	384.38
Bjork	Christine M.	1111.00
Bolton-Dias	Lorraine	340.68

Bresciani	Cynthia	60.50
Burt	Pamela	300.00
Ciaramicoli	Suzan	4620.30
Colcord	Robert	90.62
Covino	Debora A.	18.90
Creighton	Alice T.	120.00
DeLuca	Kaitlyn	90.00
Digioia	Antonia	180.00
Digioia	Christine	618.00
Eames	James	1080.00
Fredette	Mary	63.00
Glatthorn	Kristen	217.50
Harrison	Dean C.	7644.00
Jarvis	Jacquelyn	120.00
Kearsley	Deborah	2589.00
Kimball	Janet	3840.00
King	Christopher	770.00
Kleya	Jacquelyn	32993.50
Lavelle	Ann R.	1740.00
Lescord	Peter H.	734.94
Lukowski	Susan	180.00
MacLean	James	24.75
Mainini	Peter	1925.00
Maioli	Christopher F.	420.00
Maloney	Maureen	3588.00
Mank	Tracey	422.51
Marsan	Mariellen	6172.50
McCallum	James R.	7295.00
McGrath	Michael	930.00
Mullaney	Dorothy M.	1080.00
Pagnini	Benjamin	2220.00
Peacock	Beth	154.00
Pigeon	Lisa Marie	22444.56
Pimentel	Ann S.	43.42
Rajcula	Donna	120.00
Russel	Kristen	180.00
Russo	Kristina	210.00
Sackett	Karen G.	300.00
Saunders	Christina	120.00
Schlupf	Christina	569.92
Small	Joseph J.	2246.00
Sousa	Kelly	60.00
Spinazola Jr.	Joseph	35596.08
Stock	Jessica L.	1440.00
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